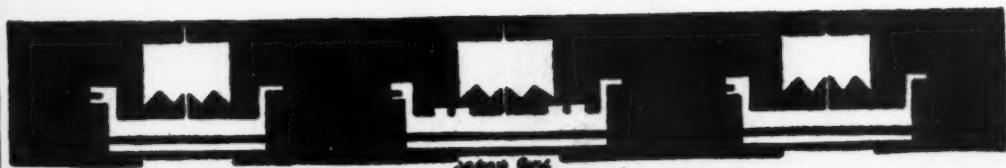


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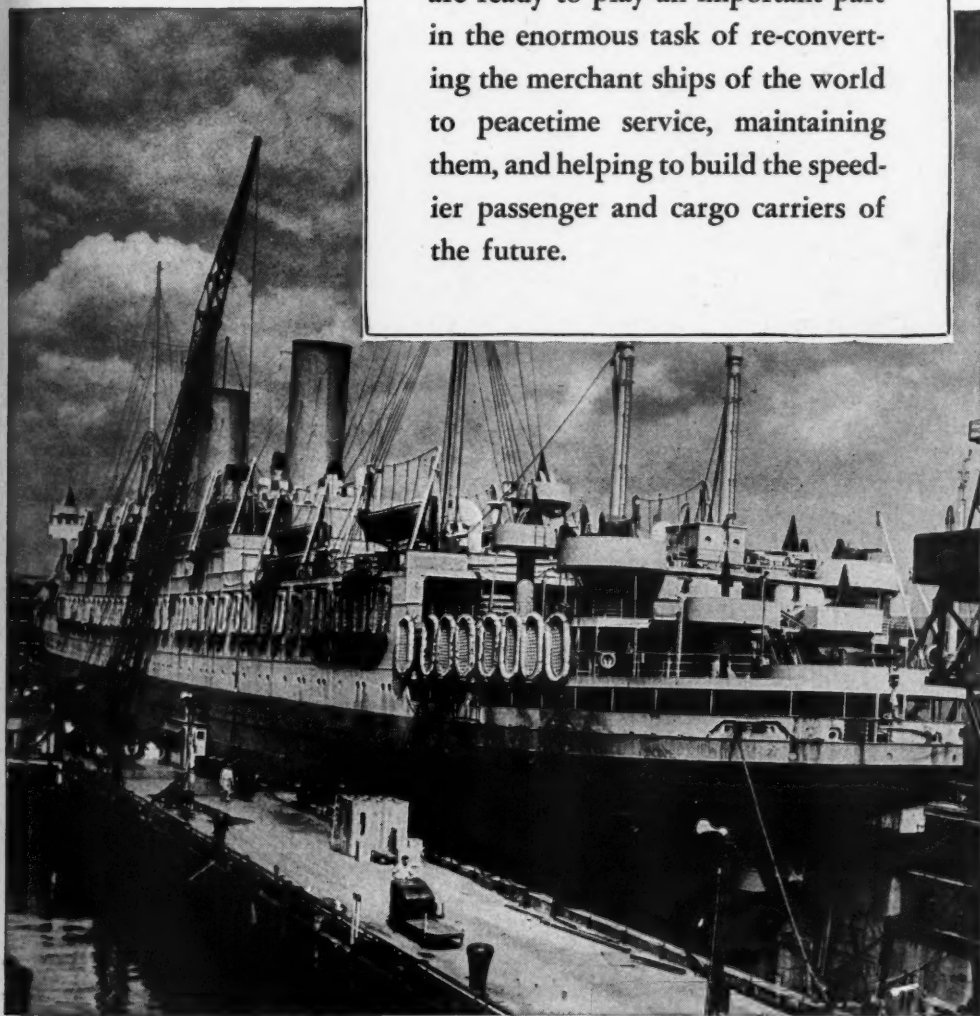
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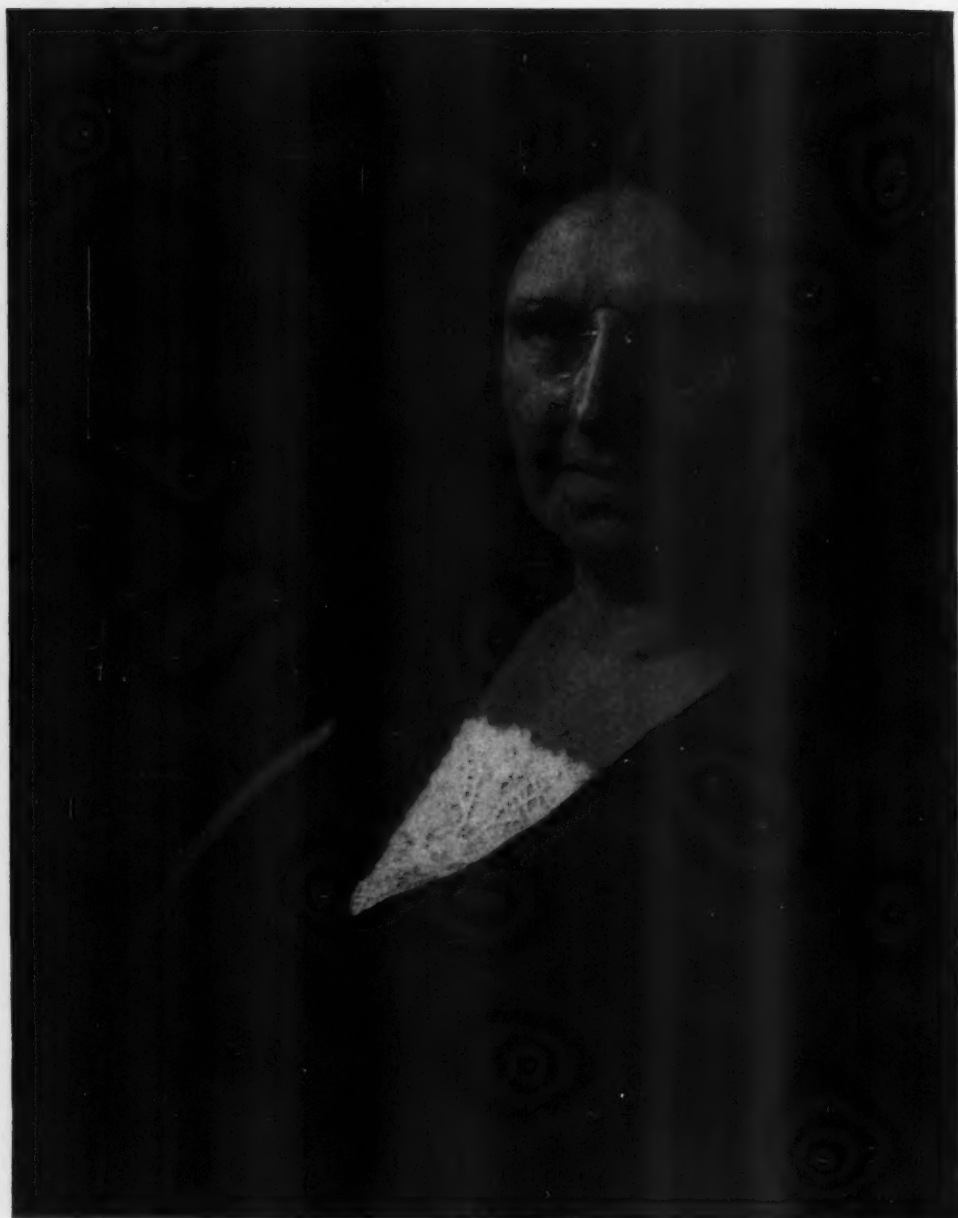
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# THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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VOLUME XXXIV

MARCH, 1946

NUMBER 1

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## Hanna Astrup Larsen

BY HENRY GODDARD LEACH

**W**ITH SORROW our readers will learn that Hanna Astrup Larsen, Editor of *THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW*, died in her lovely cottage at Elmsford, New York, on December 3, 1945, at the age of seventy-two. She lies buried in the town where she was born, Decorah, Iowa.

Born in the Middle West, daughter of a Norwegian pastor and college president, she brought to the Foundation an intellectual background, a spirit of independence, and a knowledge of the contribution of Scandinavian pioneers to America. With heroism and fidelity she served the Foundation as Literary Secretary since the publication of the first issue of the *REVIEW* in January 1913. As a critic of art, she introduced our Scandinavian Art Exhibition to America in 1912-13. She interpreted Scandinavia through two world wars. Her monuments are thirty-three volumes of the *REVIEW* and some seventy books that she edited or translated for publication by the Foundation.

Miss Larsen was a great editor. She gave her imprimatur of approval only to that which was correct in statement and written in distinguished prose or poetry. Among her last words was a declaration in Norwegian: *Menn må dø—men sjøen må seiles*: "Men must die—but the seas must be sailed." In that spirit this *REVIEW* will try to carry on. We who remain to enjoy Dr. Larsen's legacy of literary integrity may well quote the verses of Tennyson about Wordsworth:

"This laurel greener from the brows  
of him that utter'd nothing base."

## Grini Prisoner No. 480

BY ODD NANSEN

**M**AY I BEGIN NOW?"—from the upper berth in a corner by the window the question was put forth with mild and loving gentleness. This question was whispered in the same gentle manner every evening, when the lights had been turned out in room No. 6, barrack No. 12.

We were sixteen prisoners in all in room No. 6 during the winter, spring, and summer months of 1943, and every one of us longed each night for these words to be spoken. We all knew what they meant: The festal hour of the day was about to commence. We always answered simultaneously: "Carry on, Francis," "Please, go on." We all stretched out in our berths, to rest after a day of hard prison labor, and lay still waiting, with relieved anticipation. Then Francis began. In spirit, in happy comradeship we left Grini and the cruel life there and followed him into another and better world, a world which Francis with his magic words brought to us, a world of beauty, of thoughts, of ideas. In this world of his, every evening, we spent a bright and hopeful hour.

Often Francis lectured to us in pitch darkness. The "lights out"-signal had been blown and any sort of illumination after this hour, like most other things including "night lectures," was obviously *grundsätzlich verboten*. This fact, however, did not in the least worry Francis. Neither did he mind the darkness, because he never used a manuscript when he was lecturing. A peculiarity of Francis, in comparison to other speakers, was that he wrote down his manuscript *after* his lecture, and this only on our request, to enable us to preserve his fascinating discourses for days to come.

Finally, he did not even mind if one or the other of his fifteen room-mates signified with a loud snore that he had sunk into the arms of Morpheus long before the lecture had come to an end. Surely though, none of us had ever gone to sleep with thoughts filled with more beauty and with more peaceful minds since days long gone by when mother at the cradle hummed her child to sleep.

It happened, however, frequently that we could see Francis lying up there in his berth in the flickering light from a candle placed on one of the barrack tables below him. A fellow-prisoner would be sitting at the table busy with some woodcarving, writing his diary, or doing some other forbidden work. On such occasions we always took good care that all the window was securely covered with blankets, so that no betraying ray of light could find its way out into the night.





Drawing by Odd Nansen

*Francis Reads Wergeland*

Francis would lie comfortably in his berth, leaning on his left elbow. He held his hands in front of him, sometimes folded. Often he made discrete, fine little gestures, as if to visualize the theme which flowed so easily from his lips. His eyes gleamed with the joy of the true narrator. It was not only the light from the flickering candle that illuminated the speaker. There was also another light, a light that came from within him bringing to us the glow of his brilliant mind and the warmth of his generous heart.

It was not only those who were fortunate enough to be his room-mates who were given the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of his task. Neither was it we alone who found in him a loving friend and comrade. Everyone within the prison walls of Grini came to know Francis. He made friends with thousands and thousands of his fellow-countrymen; one might even be inclined to say he made them his disciples. Indefatigably he poured out to them from his rich abundance—in speeches, in lectures, in casual talks. Always he showed the same eagerness and always the same warm, loving heart. Yes indeed, we all knew and we all loved Francis.

Somehow, though, it occurs to me that you, my readers in the West, may not know Francis quite so well as we in Norway. Let me give you some facts about him: Francis Bull was born in Oslo in 1887 and brought up in this town. In 1908 he wrote his first essay on the History



Drawing by Odd Nansen

*Francis Lectures on Björnson*

of Literature. Later, in 1913, having been honored with a gold medal for an essay on Ludvig Holberg, he was permanently attached to the University of Oslo, first as a lecturer in history, and from 1920 as Professor of Nordic Literature. He has also written a great number of books and essays.

Francis was brought up in a home with old traditions, where many of our outstanding intellectuals, among them Bjørnstjerne Björnson and Henrik Ibsen, were frequent guests. Francis knew these men personally. Consequently he is able to interpret them like no one else. Nearest to his heart, however, stands Bjørnstjerne Björnson. I am sure I will not be very much mistaken if I prophesy that Francis, in addition to what he already has written about him and his contemporaries, will add a new and more extensive work about that great poet and patriot.

Francis Bull was one among those who in 1920 took the initiative in returning to Norway the rights of the Norwegian authors from the Danish publisher Gyldendal. This house had up till then been publishing the books of all our great authors. The Norwegian publishing firm of Gyldendal was founded in 1925, and ever since Francis Bull has been Chairman of its Board.

Furthermore, since 1922, Francis Bull has been a member of the Board of our National Theatre. That office was destined to bring him



into decisive conflict with the Germans. The Board would not accept the claims put forth by the new rulers. The final result was that the members of the Board—three in all—were imprisoned. In the case of Francis the imprisonment lasted for three years and four months. The two other members were released some time before Francis, and had most likely been a little more careful in their utterances than Francis had been, who without any doubt was looked upon as a "very dangerous man."

Francis was indeed a peril to the Germans. In the first place he stood sky-high above them. They were not able to follow his thoughts, which he fearlessly and without digression laid before everyone who would listen to him. Secondly, the Germans instinctively felt that his ideas if uncensored would be a danger to their government. Once in a while it happened though that a German understood him. During his first cross-examination he was asked by a Gestapo officer of high rank why he disliked the Germans and why he did not want to converse with them. In his usual straightforward manner Francis answered that a discussion which was not free was of little value and that a prisoner could not talk freely with his jailer. The Gestapo officer then invited him to speak out frankly. Francis hesitated for a moment; then he said: "As far as I remember, in the old Prussian helmets there are engraved the words *Suum cuique* ('Let each have his own') and in this we believe in Norway." The officer claimed that this principle also obtained in Germany, but that England disapproved of it. Following this phrase the conversation, as always, turned into a onesided abuse of the English.

A year and a half passed before the next cross-examination came, and that took place at Grini. This time Francis was asked if he hated Germany and the Germans. It was clear that they wanted to find out if Francis meanwhile had become more meek. With his usual calmness he answered: "I don't think that one can hate a country, neither a people, but one may indeed disapprove of a system by which a country is ruled." "You mean to say that you disapprove of National Socialism?", the Gestapo officer asked rather brusquely. "Yes," was the firm reply. "And why?" yelled the Gestapist. "That I shall be glad to tell you," answered Francis in a mild tone of voice, "the reason is that neither freedom of speech nor freedom of the press nor freedom of thought can ever exist under National Socialism." But such an answer was another nail in the coffin which the Germans surely had intended for him.

Francis, however, was not so easy to break, even if his physique was far from being that of a viking. He has no beard, neither is he rough-looking. On the contrary, he is clean-shaven and well-groomed. He

looks like the kindest man on the earth—and that he well may be. A wholehearted Norwegian he is, more Norwegian than anyone else. No matter what he may be doing his manners are always gentle and graceful, and what he says he says mildly and with amiability, even if it is not always meant that way. Francis is far from being "a softy." While he was in prison, often we heard his friends and others outside say: "Poor Francis!", "What on earth is going to happen to Francis?", "How is Francis going to endure imprisonment? He isn't very strong, you know," "Oh, my God!" and they all shook their worried heads and thought that this would be the end of Francis. Never have such words been more unwarranted, in spite of the fact that his imprisonment lasted for such a long time. No one kept his colors flying more bravely the whole time than he. And furthermore he helped thousands of fellow prisoners to do the same.

Francis had not been long at Grini before he started his task. Some prisoners wanted him to tell about Björnson, others about Ibsen or Wergeland. Some even wanted to hear about Shakespeare, Dante, Cervantes, and Voltaire, others again about the Greek and Roman classics, and Francis lectured generously and lavishly. He never said no. Like everything else at Grini, lecturing was strictly forbidden. This made, however, no difference to Francis. On the contrary it made his task all the more attractive to him. He started one series of lectures after another. Some of them were given during working hours on the job where Francis "worked," others in the barrack rooms at night. No less than thirteen hundred lectures of this kind were delivered by Francis during the time of his imprisonment. In addition to these more formal lectures he made numerous impromptu speeches. There were many occasions which called for celebration, such as Christmas, New Year, the Seventeenth of May, and also the gloomy days when a prisoner-transport left for Germany. Francis was always on the spot with words for the day, words that came from the heart and went to the heart, words that never will be forgotten by those who heard them.

Outstanding among his speeches was the one he gave at Christmas 1941, when he talked about Yule as we find it in Norwegian lyrics, and finished up by telling the tale of "Jutulen and Johannes Blessum." One never will forget the last immortal sentence, which became a catch-word to all prisoners at Grini, "You will have to stand it, Blessumen."

Each Sunday we had entertainments in the prison chapel. Originally this assembly hall was planned to be used as a chapel; now, however, it was turned into a dormitory with three-story beds on either side, reaching right up to the gallery. During the entertainments the rows

of beds acted as a tier of boxes, while the open floor space between became orchestra stalls. In the choir a small stage was arranged by placing some tables together. When the chapel was filled with prisoners, sitting, standing, or even lying, as was the case at every performance, the chapel was transformed into the most intimate small theatre one could wish for. I doubt if ever a theatre has been filled with a more unusual and more attentive audience. The program always included a charming variety of seriousness and gaiety. Chanties, sketches, music and song were rendered as best they could be under such primitive circumstances. Every Sunday these performances were true festivities to us all. Francis recited poetry and made speeches (he knows most of our Norwegian lyrics by heart). The poems he read and the speeches he made had always, apart from their intrinsic value, a hidden meaning, which invariably pointed to the current situation. These, however, could not easily be detected in their literary dress.

In the spring of 1942 school teachers were arrested in large numbers and sent to Grini. In order to make them join the "Teacher's Union," organized by the Quislings, the teachers were exposed to curses and threats, but also to means of enticement. The "teachers' front" was threatened and Francis was again on the spot. One Sunday Francis made a speech which will never be forgotten. It was the day before the end of the period for the teachers to hand in their answers. In a quiet and hearty way he told about "Brand" and "Per Gynt," about Per, who eluded every serious decision in life, lied—to get away from reality—and was a self-centered egoist. As a contrast to this type Francis held up the figure of Brand, who inflexibly demanded "everything or nothing" and who taught us that "the spirit of compromise is Satan." "Choose, you are standing at the cross road." For the "teachers' front," both inside and outside the barbed wire, this speech was one of the most heartening of all.

Since his release thirteen of these prison speeches have been published.

Sunday entertainments in the chapel came to a sudden end. The German chief of the camp had long overlooked these entertainments, surely not knowing either of the extent they were brought to or the effect they had on the prisoners. Without any doubt, these evenings gave us a mental strength, which I doubt would be appreciated by the Germans. One evening the prison commandant happened to pass by the chapel and heard us singing our national hymn (*Gud signe vårt dyre fedreland*). We always did this before leaving the chapel. From that evening on our gatherings in the chapel were forbidden. The memory, though, of these and of the lectures of Francis in particular



*The Last Roll Call*

will always remain in our minds and be among the most precious of our recollections from Grini.

Francis, like most of us, was keen for "news," but he was not any good at getting it. O no! he was not the quick and nimble type, who in a flash could cover up an illegal wireless set or chew and swallow an illegal news bulletin (which frequently was smuggled in to the prison). If this was to be demanded of our dear Francis, I am afraid we more than once would have placed ourselves in trouble. Francis's forte, however, was to listen to the news. Listening is an art in itself, and he mastered this art to perfection. With every muscle and nerve strained and his eyes and ears wide open he "sucked" in the news. He caught hold of every detail, the names of the smallest villages and rivers far into Russia. The plains in the desert of Cyrenaica, everything was engraved on his mind.

Francis never kept his knowledge to himself, neither did he, like so many others, indulge in political and strategic tinkering. He, however, transformed the news in his own heart and ours into hope and faith and into sparkling optimism. No one else could, when news came of a German advance, make it appear as if the opposite was the case.

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Again, no one was able to embellish more beautifully the news of allied advance and thereby insure our belief that the war would be over soon either before Christmas, before Easter, or before Whitsuntide. He managed thus year after year. In this way we always had only good news at Grini. There was no room for pessimists, and if any, they were always met with our rockbound optimism. There were other things that counted more than prosy military chat and the shaking of heads, things which Francis possessed and which, wherever he went, surrounded him with an invisible halo. Had Francis lived in the middle ages, I am certain there would have been two by the name of "Holy Franciscus." I don't know any man equal to Francis in the generosity with which he poured out his talents. That is why we at Grini loved him dearly and that is why he became "everyone's Francis." He was uncontestedly the most shining figure among his countrymen at Grini.



*Odd Nansen, son of Fridtjof Nansen, was a fellow prisoner with Professor Francis Bull in the Gestapo concentration camp of Grini near Oslo.*

## Stev from Setesdal

*Translated from Norwegian dialect by DOROTHY WYCKOFF*

WHAT shall I do with this life of mine  
 Now the days are grown too long?  
 Go to the woods and pluck green leaves  
 And listen to the wild birds' song.

What shall I do with this life of mine  
 Now the days will not pass by?  
 Go to the woods and pluck green leaves  
 And listen to the wild birds' cry.



*Amer. Swedish News Exchange*

*Meeting at Saltsjöbaden in 1938 where the Basic Agreement was Made. Presiding, J. Sigfrid Edström, to the Left Gustaf Söderlund, to the Right August Lindberg*

## The Labor Front in Sweden

BY NABOTH HEDIN

**W**HILE ALL IS NOT QUIET on the labor front in Sweden, a relatively high degree of tranquillity has been attained; no serious strikes are either under way or in prospect. The regulation of labor organizations, moreover, whether by mutual agreement between the organized workers and the organized employers, or by legislative action, has progressed so far that coming strikes, if of a serious nature, can be discerned long in advance.

As in international affairs the Swedish people have not always been peaceful in their labor contacts. The number of working days lost because of strikes or lock-outs during the past generation runs into astronomical figures. As late as in the 1920's the number of working days wasted during each of five average years was 5,108,200, while the cost to the labor unions in strike benefits averaged 6,355,400 kronor, and the corresponding cost to the employers in mutual support payments amounted to 5,953,877 kronor. During the next decade the col-

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lective bargaining system had advanced far enough to reduce the corresponding amounts to 565,800, 1,463,000 and 797,368, respectively. (In proportion to population these figures should be multiplied by 20 for the United States.) In 1943, by contrast, when the Swedish rearmament program was at its height, only 28,000 working days were lost because of labor disputes, and 99 percent of all wage conflicts were settled by negotiations. The number of workers whose wage contracts were renewed that year without friction covered 99.9 percent of the total.

In 1944 a new record was made for the number of workers whose wages were set by collective bargaining, the figure being 1,062,829 or roughly one sixth of the population. For the United States the corresponding figure would have been nearly 23,000,000. (In January, 1943, the number of American workers who actually were employed under wage contracts collectively negotiated was about 13,000,000 and in January, 1945, about 14,300,000.)

But once the danger of German invasion was over as far as Sweden was concerned, labor troubles broke out anew. Early in 1945 the metal unions failed to renew their wage contracts and about 125,000 workers went on a badly timed strike that lasted five months. It was one of the costliest labor conflicts in Swedish history, ranking next to the general strike in 1909, which ended disastrously for the workers: they were then not as well organized as they are today. The number of working days lost in 1945 was close to 15,000,000, costing the unions more than 40,000,000 kronor in strike benefits. After deducting the work done by the strikers in other lines of activity, the number of work days wasted was reduced to about 11,000,000, but even so the total losses of the labor forces were estimated at close to 200,000,000 kronor or \$50,000,000, a large sum for a small country like Sweden. What the costs were to the 70 struck employers was not revealed. As in the final settlement the minimum wages were increased by only about two cents an hour and the piece work rates by only five percent, the maximum rates remaining unchanged, the outcome was far from a victory for the workers, who had struck in protest against higher living costs. The increases, moreover, affected only about one third of the strikers, chiefly unskilled ones, whose pay rates had naturally been the lowest.

In view of this outcome, which had a political implication, as it was particularly a heavy defeat for the younger, Communist members of the unions, who had never been through a serious strike before, it is not surprising that relatively peaceful labor relations have prevailed ever since. As most wage contracts have to be denounced three months in advance, usually by October 1, as otherwise they renew themselves

automatically, it is now possible to predict that in 1946, too, peace will prevail on the Swedish labor front.

For this relative stability there are several reasons. The foremost is probably that in Sweden the workers have been organized longer than, for instance, in the United States. They have had more time to get experience in the management of their wage negotiations. In his book, "The Government of Labor Relations in Sweden," published in 1942 jointly by The American-Scandinavian Foundation and The University of North Carolina Press, Dean James J. Robbins of the American University Graduate School in Washington writes that the first important strike in Swedish labor history took place in the sawmill town of Sundsvall on Sweden's east coast, north of Stockholm, in 1879. A general depression in the lumber market, which had lasted two years, caused a saw-mill owner to reduce wages by from 15 to 20 percent, and since the pay rates had ranged from only one krona or about 25 cents to three and a half kronor for a twelve-hour day, the workers protested. Quitting the mill, they gathered on a wooded hill near by. Soon they were joined by other workers, and the next day they held an open-air mass meeting in the town. There was no disorder. At the request of the strikers themselves the saloons were closed, and, as part of the mass-meeting program, hymns were sung.

But such a collective refusal to work was something new in Sweden, —a shocking demonstration. The king himself, then Oscar II, father of the present monarch, declared that there were "limits to forbearance." Troops and naval vessels were mobilized, and when thus surrounded the strikers were threatened with arrest as vagrants or eviction from company-owned houses. Thirty-six "vagrants" were actually given jail sentences and about a thousand families of the others were thrown out of their homes. The bona fide residents were then forcibly conducted back to their mills and told to resume work. Not being organized and having no legal rights, if not employed, they lost the first battle.

Much has happened in Swedish labor history since then. Emigration to the United States has often helped cut down the number of applicants for work, and gradually agricultural and forestry workers as well as factory employees have become nearly one hundred percent organized. Their right to "association" has been sanctioned by law, and between 1913 and 1938 their hourly wage rates more than trebled, rising from a base of 100 in 1913 to 309 in 1938. After allowances have been made for the concomitant rise in living costs, their real wages went up during the same period from 100 to 186 or almost doubled, while the annual income of manual workers rose, nominally, from 100 to 237

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and, in terms of main living costs, from 100 to 143. In other words, at the end of the twenty-five-year period, the average manual worker in Sweden was about half again as well off as he had been at the start, an improvement expressed in better housing, higher grade clothing and a more varied diet.

"The average real income of Swedish wage earners at the present time," writes Paul H. Norgren in his book, "The Swedish Collective Bargaining System," published in 1941 by the Harvard University Press, "is, in point of fact, one of the highest in Europe. . . . From 1900 to 1930 real annual wages in Sweden rose by approximately fifty-five percent, as against less than fifty percent in the United States." (P. 273.) To this gain must be added the general improvements in Swedish social welfare provisions from which the manual workers inevitably gain the most,—increased old-age pensions, sick benefits, accident insurance, lower medical rates, etc. Like the higher wages, the cost of these improvements has come out of the increased productivity of Swedish industry, whether forestry, agriculture, or manufacture.

A second important factor, which has special interest for the United States, has been the ability of the Swedish workers to organize on a national scale and along industrial lines. There are a few of the older craft unions, the so-called "aristocracy of labor," left, but by 1938 at least 75 percent of the members of the Swedish Federation of Labor were organized nationally and in conformity with the principles of industrial unionism. (See "Employers and Workers in Sweden" by Sigfrid Hansson, a New York World's Fair Booklet, 1939, p. 11.) To be sure, all organized workers in Sweden are not members of the Federation. The customs inspectors, for instance, and the locomotive engineers have so far stayed out, and so have most of the white-collar workers (about 50,000), the civil service employees, including school teachers, firemen, policemen (40,000), and finally the Syndicalists or I.W.W., whose program is revolutionary rather than reformist (30,000).

But the fact remains that the membership of the main Federation of Labor now exceeds 1,000,000, so that there is no nation-wide split in Swedish organized labor as there is in the United States. Consequently, the officers of the Federation can speak for practically all manual workers. This, in turn, saves Sweden from so-called "jurisdictional" strikes. There are, to be sure, occasional "wild-cat" or *okynnes* strikes in Sweden, too, but they are becoming more and more rare. Such practices, on the other hand, as "sit-down" strikes, the "check-off" system, or forcing the employers to deduct union dues from the pay-envelopes, or "feather-bedding," that is, requiring employers to hire workers they do not really need, are all but unknown in Sweden. In



*Amer. Swedish News Exchange*

*Gustaf Söderlund, Head of the Swedish Employers' Association*

other words, organized labor has had time to grow up, has learned to discipline itself, and has thereby gained much good will and high respect of the public at large. The general probity and self-respect of Swedish labor leaders have become proverbial.

To this result the Swedish employers have contributed much. Instead of continuing to antagonize organized labor in general, they have organized themselves along the same national and industrial lines as the workers for the express purpose of bargaining on a nation-wide basis and thereby holding the labor demands within reasonable bounds. In Stockholm, the Swedish Employers' Association maintains a large office and a permanent staff which

watches developments on the labor market, keeps the members informed about legislation, and lays strategic plans for offensive actions through lock-outs as well as defensive ones in case of strikes. To enroll, each member has to pay dues in proportion to the number of workers he employs and also to file a bond in the same proportion to guarantee fulfillment of obligations in case of labor troubles. Thus special "war-chests" have been built up by both sides. That of the union is the larger, because in an emergency the employers are better able to mobilize additional assets.

Though the membership in the various employers, exporters, or industrial organizations inevitably overlap, the Employers' Association is organized solely for the purpose of managing labor relations. (Neither the ship owners, the newspaper publishers, nor the agricultural employers belong.) In case of strikes the Stockholm headquarters becomes a buzzing bee-hive similar to a military general headquarters in time of war. The discipline among the employers, moreover, is such that labor cannot divide and conquer. No labor contract signed by any member is valid until approved by the Association.

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Confronted by such an organization, the labor leaders naturally think twice before resorting to coercive measures. Conversely, the opposite is also true. The net result has been that employers and workers have learned to respect each other. When the two forces are in equilibrium, there is peace on the labor front.

Gradually some of the rights and practices of each side have been approved by law, but neither the labor unions nor the Employers' Association have so far been incorporated. At the Saltsjöbaden negotiations, 1936-1938, the central organizations of both sides finally agreed to bargain collectively with each other. The Basic Agreement signed on December 20, 1938, which Gerard Swope, former President of General Electric, who was Chairman of President Roosevelt's Commission on Industrial Relations in Sweden, has called "a new high level in voluntarily negotiated agreements between employers and workers," provided (1) some guarantee against the interruption of essential public services during labor disputes, (2) an effort to minimize the resort to coercive measures, i.e. strikes, lock-outs, boycotts, and picketing, (3) limitations on "secondary boycotts," and (4) rules in regard to dismissals and lay-offs.

But the fact remains that no matter how wide-ranging the Saltsjöbaden or Basic agreements were, the ultimate rights of labor to strike and that of the employers to declare lock-outs were kept in the domain of "free enterprise." Thus when representatives of the two sides meet to negotiate their labor contracts, they usually agree at the outset on only one thing: to keep the public, i.e. the Government, out. At the same time no secret was made of the fact that the Basic Agreement was concluded primarily to forestall legislation to compel labor peace.

At the same time, the recurring personal confrontations of the leaders of labor as well as of capital have tended to create not only mutual respect, but even personal liking. It was said that when the Basic Agreement was prepared, it took



*Amer. Swedish News Exchange*

*August Lindberg, Head of the Swedish Federation of Labor*

two years, the delegates who met in the solitude of Saltsjöbaden, a Stockholm suburban hotel, would argue all day, but would frequently meet for dinner and a subsequent card party almost every evening.

Another measure fruitful in reducing the number of strikes and lock-outs had been the division of all labor disputes into two classes, viz. legal disputes and "interest," i.e. economic or wage disputes. Since the establishment of the special Labor Court in 1928, all disputes of the former kind must be referred to it for adjudication. If there is a collective labor contract in force, strikes are forbidden. Differences of opinion as to what the contract provides must be referred to the court, which acts quickly and without appeal. Violations may cause heavy damages for either side. The court, which *sits continuously* in Stockholm, has seven judges, a majority of which prevails. All judges are appointed by the Government, as is the general Swedish practice, but two are nominated by each side, i.e. organized labor and the organized employers. Of the other three, who must not have special affiliations with either group of litigants, at least two, the chief judge and his alternate, must be learned in the law and have had court experience, while the third must be an expert in labor relations. The proceedings for each case usually take less than one hour, and the final decisions are handed down in a week or ten days.

In order not only to plead their own causes in court and hold their own in the contract negotiations, the labor groups in Sweden have done much to advance their own education. In 1939 the Swedish labor unions spent over half a million kronor on special study courses, study circles, and folk high schools which are partly supported by the Government. At Brunnsvik in Dalecarlia the labor forces maintain a special Folk High School for the education of their future leaders.

The labor movement has its own newspapers whose total daily circulation is over a million copies. The labor forces are also organized politically and in the 1944 election polled 47 percent of the total national vote, giving them secure majorities in both Chambers of the Riksdag and control of the Government. Not all supporters of the Social-Democratic Party, to be sure, are members of labor unions, but the latter do constitute the core of the party. How much their increased political responsibilities have sobered the labor forces in Sweden is shown by their changed attitude in regard to national defense. There was a time when they were decidedly anti-military, but in the recent world war they were super-patriotic. At last, they felt, Sweden was their country and they had to defend it.

*Naboth Hedin is Director of The American Swedish News Exchange*

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# Modern Finnish Tapestries

By ELISABETH ASCHEHOUG WYMAN

**H**ISTORICAL EVENTS have always been reflected in a country's cultural life. One of the most recent instances is the renaissance in Finland's arts and crafts during her independence of less than three decades. The liberation from Russia in 1917 gave rise to a national awakening of all the Finnish traditions which had been dormant for years. Spontaneously, latent forces sought fulfillment in resurrecting the old handicrafts and at the same time tempering them with the modern outlook which has so strongly manifested itself in Finland during the past few years.

This fusion between old and new finds perhaps its most lucid interpretation in Finnish contemporary tapestries. Traditions, both in regard to skill and composition, have been a stimulus to carrying



*Large Tapestry by Maja Kansanen, a Mystic and Emotional Portrayal of Life and Death. Won the Grand Prix in Paris in 1937*



*Gothic Mysticism Is Tempered by Modern Austerity in an Ecclesiastical Hanging*  
by Eva Anttila

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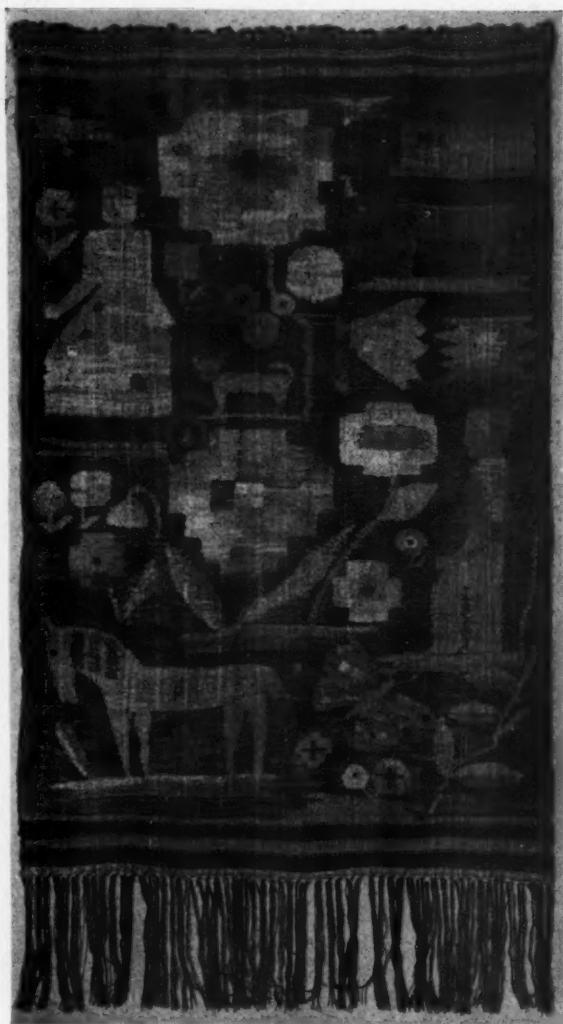
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on the craft of weaving. While modern Finnish architecture and furniture in forms never conceived before have long illustrated the progressive spirit of the country, it seems that the modern tapestries with their imaginative compositions give a better key to the emotional impulses underlying so many of the Finnish arts and crafts.

The mysticism of an older time prevails in many of the tapestry designs; yet it is mingled with a modern sense of composition. Through this unorthodox combination these weavings take on a charm never to be found in the set patterns of the traditional kind. Emotional impulses have gained a new freedom and have received tangible form as decorative motifs in many of the contemporary weavings. Other compositions are simplified conceptions of flowers and plants re-

vealing love of nature in a curious combination of the modern and the naïve. To express religious feelings also appears to have been important to several artisans. Sometimes a tapestry is clearly inspired by emotions. In other cases the spiritual feeling is more deliberately incorporated because a certain tapestry is intended as an ecclesiastical decoration.

One feature which makes these modern hangings so pleasing is that they are sufficiently abstract in design to leave something to the beholder's own imagination. The multitude of details characteristic of



*Flower and Animal Motifs Are Mingled in This Design by Margareta Ahlstedt-Willandt in a Naïve and yet Modern Manner*

bygone examples is conspicuously absent, allowing the main motif to assume its proper significance. Of course in olden times, before the art of painting, tapestries had another function, for in addition to being a decoration, they also served as a pictorial portrayal of memorable events. This idea remained until long after painting had taken their place in recording important happenings. But the modern Finnish artisans have had the enterprise to break with this tradition. They do not allow their weavings to approach the painter's medium as is usually the case with antique tapestries.

A new understanding of the material itself comes to the fore, not only in the method of weaving but also in composition and coloring. At the same time the modern examples bear the imprint of the artist's individuality to a marked extent. Both the choice of motif and the way it is worked into a composition reflect the weaver's personal ideas so clearly that they are easily identified with their originator. This mark of distinction, frequently achieved in other fields of art and handicraft, has rarely before been reached in connection with tapestries.



*Characteristic Landscape Tapestry by Greta Skogster-Lehtinen. Hangs in the Committee Room of Enso-Gutzeit O.Y.*

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Often two or more threads are used together as one in the weaving process. Sometimes such a multiple thread may consist of different shades of the same color, or contrasting colors may be combined. Several tones can in this way be woven in at the same time, enriching the effect with blends not otherwise obtainable. As the thread goes into the fabric, it may be twisted so each color may in turn be allowed predomi-



*Religious Motif in Martta Taipale's Characteristic Manner.  
Exhibited at the Golden Gate Exposition, 1939*

nance on the tapestry surface. Then again, multiple yarn may be of different materials like dull wool combined with lustrous silk or slightly glossy linen fibers. In this manner the various textures are accentuated. Attention can be attracted to a detail by giving it silky highlights, or background areas may remain subdued by executing them in mat wool.

One of the early exponents of this modern method is the noted weaver Maja Kansanen Störseth. In addition to winning international renown for her tapestries, she is also a noted teacher in her field. At her charming country home on an island in an inland lake of Finland she receives students from many countries who attend her summer courses.

Perhaps one of the finest examples of the modern Finnish school is to be seen in her large tapestry which was awarded the Grand Prix at the Paris Exposition in 1937. Several figures are unevenly distributed in a well balanced composition. Their vague portrayal is excellently in keeping with the mystic and emotional inspiration. The shadowy figures in golden tones on the upper part suggest people who

have passed on. The central section symbolizes music and takes on a vibrant character through ochre and red shades. The artist's interpretation of the future is represented by figures in more somber blue and brown tones along the lower part of the panel. Another of her tapestries in a simpler vein shows the head and wings of a little angel. The colors are blends of pastel tones in gold, yellow, green, and blue with pink to set off the face. The whole surface is interspersed with highlights in silk against subdued wool and linen textures, and a few touches of gold add to the enduring impression of beauty.

The artist Margareta Ahlstedt-Willandt finds perhaps her most characteristic expression through her flower and animal motifs. But there is nothing stereotyped about them. They range from naïve compositions reminiscent of medieval designs, yet modern in coloring and detail, to abstract compositions like the tapestry named *Spring*. The pattern symbolizes the creative forces of the soil. Slender plants stretch upward from the black and gray shades of the earth into warm red shades of the rising sun.

An air of mysticism gives a strange beauty to an ecclesiastical tapestry by Eva Anttila. Its Gothic character is emphasized by the perpendicular feeling predominant in this style. Yet the scale and the placement of the figures clearly reveal the modern trend. Pastel shades focus the eye on the central figure of the Madonna and the child, while the edges disappear into muted darker shades as shadowy as the vaulted aisles of a Gothic church. In keeping with the severity of the design, the tapestry is woven in a firmer weave than commonly used in Finnish hangings today.

Greta Skogster-Lehtinen is another artist whose works lend distinction to this field. Outside of Finland she is perhaps best known for her designs in table linens, but her contribution to modern tapestries is far too important to be overlooked. In some measure her compositions reflect a traditional influence, for many of them are in the form of landscape portrayals. But each woven picture usually represents the scenery in a modern manner, and they assume a vigor of their own through the artist's highly individualized technique of weaving. The variety of textures in each example focuses the attention upon the cloth itself as well as upon the composition as a whole. Heavy threads in loose weaves give a rugged feeling to trees and mountains, while fine linens and silks permit the details to be worked out. The omission of borders which usually framed similar scenes in older tapestries accentuates the artist's modern approach. Skogster-Lehtinen's tapestries often portray a particular setting woven especially for leading Finnish firms in commemoration of dates significant in their history.

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When Finnish weavers today are capable of making their art so expressive, it is due to a complete mastery of the practical side of weaving, a new freedom from theoretical dictates. Owing to the necessity for clothing, weaving is of course one of man's earliest crafts. In Finland it has for centuries been kept on an unusually high plane both in its practical and its artistic aspect.

In the heroic ballads of the ancient *Kalevala*, skill at the loom is recorded as an essential part of a young maid's training before entering into the married estate. Not only was she taught how to card and spin wool, but also how much cloth should be produced from the wool of one fleece. To cure and spin flax was likewise a part of her training. In the *Kalevala* the art of weaving is symbolic of the eternal feminine and identified with the beauty of accomplishment. In poetic phraseology it is narrated how the hero Väinämöinen in search of a bride encountered a beautiful maiden seated on a rainbow weaving a golden fabric. "... And her shuttle was all golden, and her comb was all of silver. ..." The comb mentioned in this connection refers to a weaver's tool which is still being used today to bring the weft closely together for a firm fabric.

The high esteem which the old runos express indicates the importance attached to weaving in Finland through the centuries. In olden times it was for the most part carried out by peasant women. Their creative ability sprang from their familiarity with their medium and this knowledge has been handed down from generation to generation. Today the artistic phase of weaving is carried out by women who specialize in it to a point where they devote their whole life to its execution.

The modern character of the designs has also brought about new methods of weaving which contribute much to the beauty of these tapestries. Since the main motif is no longer surrounded by small designs or borders of foliage, surface interest has to be achieved by other means. The backgrounds are therefore as high a test of the artisan's ability as is the designing and execution of the subject itself. By skillful blending of colors and novel weaves they set off rather than detract from the main composition. Yet the whole tapestry has a feeling of unity. The traditional weaves would have appeared too flat and plain for such a treatment. Instead, softer and irregular effects have taken their place. Many of the artisans have found that the necessary variation in textural appearance can be more easily achieved by weaving more in the manner applied to fabrics by the yard. To give a richer enjoyment of color is also the aim of the modern artist.



*Tapestry by Martta Taipale, Motifs from Helsinki with the Russian Church in the Center. Won the Diploma d'Honneur in Milan*

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Religious motifs have furnished many of the inspirations for Martta Taipale, one of the younger generation of Finland's creative artists. Angels are her favorite subject. Her rare designs are a combination of simplicity and naïveté and they reveal the modern style in color and feeling. Like many of her colleagues, she often likes to dye the yarn herself. The tedious job of boiling herbs and dying the wool or silk is rewarded by the peculiar softness and variety in shadings which vegetable dyes produce.

Resourcefulness and individual character have played an important part in the creation of these works of art. Let us hope that they will endure and that the Finnish artists will have the spirit to uphold their tradition and be spurred on to perhaps even greater accomplishments.



*Angel in Pastel Coloring by Martta Taipale. Won Diploma d'Honneur in Milan*

*Elisabeth Aschehoug Wyman is a contributor to American and Norwegian periodicals on art and art industry, and is the author of two previous articles in the REVIEW: "Modern Norwegian Ceramics," published in December 1938, and "Scandinavian Legations," which appeared in September 1939.*

# New Iceland

By HALLDÓR KILJAN LAXNESS

*Translated from the Icelandic by AXEL EYBERG AND JOHN WATKINS*

THE ROAD leads from Old Iceland to New Iceland. It is the way of men from the old to the new in the hope that the new will be better than the old. So Torfi Torfason has sold his sheep and his cows and his horses, torn himself away from his land, and journeyed to America—where the raisins grow all over the place and where a much brighter future awaits us and our children. And he took his ewes by the horn for the last time, led them to the highest bidder, and said: "Now this one is my good Goldbrow who brings back her two lambs from Mulata every fall. And what do you say to the coat of wool on Bobbin here? She's a fine sturdy lass, Bobbin, isn't she?"

And thus he sold them one after another, holding them himself by the horn. And he pressed their horns against the calluses on his palm for the last time. These were his ewes, who had crowded around the manger in the dead of winter and stuck their noses into the fragrant hay. And when he came home from the long trip to the market town after having wrangled with some of the rascals there, he marvelled at how snow-white they were in the fleece. They were like a special kind of people and yet better than people in general. And yonder were his cows being led off the place like large and foolish women, who are nevertheless kindness itself, and you are fond of them because you have known them since you were young. They were led out through the lanes and strange boys urged them on with bits of strap. And he patted his horses on the rump for the last time and sold them to the highest bidder, these fine old fellows who were perhaps the only beings in the world that understood him and knew him and esteemed him. He had known them since they were boys, full of pomp and show. Now he sold them for money because the way of man leads from the old to the new, from Old Iceland to New Iceland, and the evening after this sale he no more thought of saying his prayers than would a man who had taken God Almighty by the horn, patted Him on the rump, and sold Him, and let some strange boy urge Him on with a bit of a strap. He felt that he was an evil man, a downright ungodly man, and he asked his wife what the devil she was sniffing about.

In the middle of July a new settler put up a log cabin on a grassy



plot in the swamps along Icelandic River, a short distance from what is now called Riverton in New Iceland. Torfi hung the picture of Jon Sigurdsson on one wall, and on another his wife hung a calendar with a picture of a girl in a wide-brimmed hat. The neighbors were helpful to them in building their cabin, making ditches, and in other ways. All that summer Torfi stood up to his hips in mud digging ditches, and when the bottom was worn out of his shoes and the soles of his feet began to get sore from the shovel, he hit on a plan: he cut the bottom out of a tin can and stuck his toe into the cylinder. And the first evening when he came home from the ditch-digging and was struggling to remove from himself that sticky clay which is peculiar to the soil of Manitoba, he could not help saying to his wife: "It's really remarkable how filthy the mud is here in New Iceland."

But that summer there was an epidemic among the children, and Torfi Torfason lost two of his four, a six-year old girl and a three-year old boy. Their names were Jon and Maria. The neighbors helped him to make a coffin. A clergyman was brought from a distance, and he buried Jon and Maria, and Torfi Torfason paid what was asked. A few not very well washed Icelanders, their old hats in their toil-worn hands, stood over the grave and droned sadly. Torfi Torfason had seen to it that everybody would get coffee and fritters and Christmas cakes. But when autumn came, the weather grew cold and the snow fell, and then his wife had a new baby who filled the log cabin with fresh crying. This was a Canadian Iclander. After that came Indian Summer with the multi-colored forests.

And the Indians came down from the North by their winding trails along the river and wanted to buy themselves mittens. They took things very calmly and did not fuss about trifles, but bought a single pair of mittens for a whole haunch of venison together with the shoulder. Then they bought a scarf and socks for a whole carcass. After that they trudged off again with their mittens and scarfs like any other improvident wretches.

Then came the winter, and what was to be done now? Torfi christened his farm Riverbank. There was only one cow at Riverbank, three children, and very little in the cupboard. The cow's name was Mulley, in spite of the fact that she had very long horns, and she was known as Riverbank Mulley. And she had big eyes and stared like a foreigner at the farmer's wife and mooed every time anybody walked past the door.

"I don't think poor Mulley will be able to feed us all this winter," said Torfi Torfason.

"Have you thought of anything?" asked Torfi Torfason's wife.

"Nothing unless to go north and fish in the lake. It's said that those who go there often do well for themselves."

"I was thinking that if you went somewhere, I might just as well go somewhere too for the winter. Sigridur of New Farm says there's lots of work for washerwomen in Winnipeg in the winter. Some of the women from this district are going south the beginning of next week. I could pack up my old clothes on a sled like them and go too. I'd just leave little Tota here with the youngsters. She's going on fourteen now, Tota is."

"I could perhaps manage to send home a mess of fish once in a while," said Torfi Torfason.

This was an evening early in November, snow had fallen on the woods, the swamps were frozen over. They spoke no more of their parting. Jon Sigurdsson grinned out into the room, and the calendar girl with the wide-brimmed hat laid her blessing upon the sleeping children.

The tiny kerosene lamp burned in the window, but the frost flowers bloomed on the window-panes.

"It seems to me it can get cold here, no less than at home," said Torfi Torfason presently.

"Do you remember what fun it often was when guests came in the evening? There would be sure to be talk about the sheep at this time of the autumn on our farm."

"Oh, it's not much of a sheep country here in the west," said Torfi Torfason. "But there's fishing in the lake . . . And if you have decided to go south and get yourself a 'job,' as they say here, then . . ."

"If you write to Iceland, be sure to ask about our old cow Skjalda, how she is getting along. Our old Skjalda. Good old cow."

Silence.

Then Torfi Torfason's wife spoke again:

"By the way, what do you think of the cows here in America, Torfi? Don't you think they're awfully poor milkers? Somehow or other I feel as if I could never get fond of Mulley. It seems to me as if it would be impossible to let yourself get fond of a foreign cow."

"Oh, that's just a notion," said Torfi Torfason, spitting through his teeth, although he had long since given up chewing. "Why shouldn't the cows here be up and down just the same as other cows? But there's one thing sure, I'll never get so attached to another horse again, since I sold my Skjoni . . . There was a fine fellow . . ."

They never referred in any other way than this to what they had owned or what they had lost, but sat long silent, and the tiny lamp cast a glow on the frost flowers like a garden—two poor Icelanders, man

and wife, who put out their light and go to sleep. Then begins the great, soundless, Canadian winter night.—

The women started off for Winnipeg a few days later, walking through the snow-white woods, over the frozen fields, a good three days' journey. They tied their belongings on to sleds. Each one drew her own sled. This was known as going washing in Winnipeg. Torfi Torfason remained at home one night longer.

He stood in the front yard outside of the cabin and looked after the women as they disappeared into the woods with their sleds. The November forests listened in the frost to the speech of these foreign women, echoed it, without understanding it. Ahead of them walked an old man to lead the way. They wore Icelandic homespun skirts and had them tucked up at the waist. Around their heads they had tied Icelandic woollen shawls. They say they are such good walkers. They intend to take lodging somewhere for the night for their pennies.

When the women had disappeared, Torfi Torfason looked into the cabin where they had drunk their last drop of coffee, and the mugs were still standing unwashed on the ledge. Tota was taking care of the little boy, but little Imba was sitting silent beside the stove. Mamma had gone away. Torfi Torfason patched up the door, patched up the walls, all that day, and carried in wood. In the evening the little girls bring him porridge, bread, and a slice of meat. The little boy frets and cries. And his sister, big Tota with her big red hands, takes him up in her arms and rocks him: "Little brother must be good, little brother mustn't cry, little brother's going to get a drop of milk from his good old Mulley." But the boy keeps on crying.

"My Mulley cow, moo, moo, moo

Mulley in the byre,

What great big horns she has,

What great big eyes she has!

Blessings on my Mulley cow, my good old Mulley cow.

Our mamma went away, 'way, 'way,

Away went our Mamma.

Our Mamma's gone but where, where, where,

Where has she gone, our Mamma?

She'll come back after Christmas and Christmas and Christmas,

Back with a new dress for me, a new dress, a new dress.

We mustn't be a-crying, a-crying, a-crying,

For surely she'll be coming, our Mamma, our Mamma,

For she is our good Mamma, our Mamma, our Mamma,

God bless our Mamma and our little brother's Mamma."

But the boy still kept on crying. And Torfi Torfason ate his meal like a man who is trying to eat something in a hurry at a concert.

The day after Torfi Torfason started off. A Canadian winter day, blue, vast, and calm, with ravens hovering over the snow-covered woods. He threaded his way along the trails northward to the lake, carrying his pack on his back. This was through unsettled country, nowhere a soul, nowhere the smoke from a cabin mile after mile, only those ravens, flying above the white woods and alighting on the branches as on a clay statue of Pallas. "Nevermore." And Torfi Torfason thinks of his ewes and his cows and his horses and all that he has lost.

Then all of a sudden a wretched bitch waddled out from the woods into his path. It was a vagrant bitch, as thin as a skeleton, and so big in the belly that she walked with difficulty. Her dugs dragged along the snow, for she was in pup. They came from opposite directions, two lonely creatures, who are paddling their own canoes in America and meet one cold winter day out in the snow. At first she pricked up her ears and stared at the man with brown mistrustful eyes. Then she crouched down in the snow and began to tremble, and he understood that she was telling him she wasn't feeling well, that she had lost her master, that she had often been beaten, beaten, beaten, and never in her life had enough to eat, and that nobody had ever been kind to her, never; nobody knew, she was sure, how all this would end for her. She was very poor, she said.

"Well, it takes all kinds to make a world," said Torfi Torfason. And he took off his pack and sat down in the snow with his legs stretched out in front of him. In the mouth of the pack there was something that little Tota had scraped together for her papa on the trip. And then the bitch began to wag her tail back and forth in the snow and gaze with lustful eyes at the mouth of the pack.

"Well, well, poor doggie, so you have lost your master and have had nothing to eat since God knows when, and I've just chased out my wife, yes, yes, and she went away yesterday. Yes, yes, she's going to try to shift for herself as a washerwoman down in Winnipeg this winter, yes, yes, that's how it is now. Yes, yes, we picked up and left a fairly decent living there at home and came here into this damnable log-cabin existence, yes, yes. . . . Well, try that in your chops, you miserable cur, you can gobble that up, I tell you. Oh, this is nothing but damned scraps and hardly fit to offer a dog, not even a stray dog, oh, no. Well, I can't bring myself to chase you away, poor wretch—we're all stray dogs in the eyes of the Lord in any case, that's what we all are. . . ."



Time passed on and Torfi Torfason fished in the lake and lived in a hut on some outlying island with his boss, a red-bearded man, who made money out of his fishing fleet as well as by selling other fishermen tobacco, liquor, and twine. The fisherman vehemently disliked the dog and said every day that that damned bitch ought to be killed. He had built this cabin on the island himself. It was divided into two parts, a hall and a room. They slept in the room, and in the hall they kept fishing tackle, food, and other supplies, but the bitch slept on the step outside the cabin door. The fisherman was not a generous man and gave Torfi the smaller share of the food. He absolutely forbade giving the dog the tiniest morsel and said that bitch ought to be killed. To this Torfi made no answer, but always stole a bite for the dog when the fisherman had gone to bed. Now the time came when the bitch was to pup. The bitch pupped. And when she had finished pupping he gave her a fine chunk of meat, which he stole from the fisherman, for he knew that bitter is the hunger of the woman in child-bed, and let her lie on an old sack in the hall, directly against the will of the fisherman. Then he lay down to sleep.

But he has not lain long when he is aroused by somebody walking about and he cannot figure out why. But it turns out to be the fisherman, who gets up out of bed, walks out into the hall, lights the lamp, takes the bitch by the scruff of the neck, and throws her out in the snow. Then he closes the outer door, puts out the light, and lies down on his bunk. Now it is quiet for a while, until the bitch begins to howl outside and the pups to whine piteously in the hall. Then Torfi Torfason gets up, gropes his way out through the hall, lets the bitch in, and she crawls at once over her pups. After that he lies down to sleep. But he has not lain long when he is aroused by somebody walking about and he can not figure out why. But it turns out to be the fisherman, who gets up out of bed, walks out into the hall, lights the lamp, takes the bitch by the scruff of the neck for the second time and throws her out into the snow. Then he lies down to sleep again. Again the bitch begins to howl outside and the pups to whine, and Torfi Torfason gets up out of bed, lets the bitch in to the pups again, and again lies down. After a little while the fisherman gets up again, lights the lantern, and fares forth. But even soft iron can be whetted sharp, and now Torfi Torfason springs out of bed a third time and out into the hall after the fisherman.

"Either you leave the dog alone or both of us will go, I and the dog," says Torfi Torfason, and it was only a matter of seconds till he laid hands on his master. A hard scuffle began and the cabin shook with it, and everything fell over and broke that was in the way. They

gave each other many and heavy blows, but the fisherman was the more warlike, until Torfi tackled low, grasped him round the waist, and did not let up in the attack until he had the fisherman doubled up with his chin against his knees. Then he opened the door of the cabin and threw him out somewhere into the wide world.

Outside the weather was calm, the stars were shining, it was extremely cold, and there was snow over everything. Torfi was all black, and blue and bleeding, hot and panting after the struggle. So this was what had to happen to Torfi Torfason, renowned as a man of peace, who had never harmed a living creature—to throw a man out of his own house, hurl him out on the frozen ground in the middle of the night, and all for one she-dog. Perhaps I have even killed him, Torfi thought, but that's the end of that—that's how it had to be. To think that I ever moved to New Iceland!

And he sauntered out of the cabin, coatless as he stood, sauntered out on to the icy ground and headed for the woods. And he had hardly walked twenty feet when he had forgotten both his rage and the fisherman and started to think about what he had owned and what he had lost. Nobody knows what he has owned until he has lost it. He began to think about his sheep, which were as white as snow in the fleece, about his horses, fine old fellows, who were the only ones who understood him and knew him and esteemed him, and about his cows, which were led out the lanes one evening last spring and strange boys ran after them with bits of strap. And he began to think about Jon and Maria, whom God Almighty had taken to Himself up in yon great, foreign heaven, which vaults over New Iceland and is something altogether different from the heaven at home. And he saw still in his mind those Icelandic pioneers who had stood over the grave with their old hats in their sorely tired hands and droned.

And he threw himself down on the frozen ground among the trees and cried bitterly in the frosty night—this big strong man who had gone all the way from Old Iceland to New Iceland—this proletarian who had brought his children as a sacrifice to the hope of a much worthier future, a more perfect life. His tears fell on the ice.

# Return of the Lion

BY MOGENS HAUGSTED AND KNUD HENDRIKSEN

ON OCTOBER 20, 1945, a ceremony which, in an unusual manner, linked Danish to American history, took place in Copenhagen outside the old Armory. On that day the bronze lion of Isted, one of Denmark's national monuments, was restored to its native land, delivered from an ignominious German captivity by the American army. The lion had made quite an adventurous journey, from Berlin through the American, Russian, and English occupation zones, until finally General Roy W. Barker, on behalf of General Eisenhower, handed it over to King Christian X. In so doing, he expressed the wish that His Majesty would himself select a permanent emplacement.

The Isted lion, due to its sculptor, as well as its later fate, is closely identified with Slesvig, that corner of Denmark where strife has never wholly abated. Herman Vilhelm Bissen, the sculptor, with Bertel Thorvaldsen and Jens Adolf Jerichau, one of the masters of Danish sculpture, was born in 1798, in the town of Slesvig, right in the centre of the disputed border province. From early childhood Bissen showed decided artistic aptitude. His parents wanted to apprentice him to a cabinet-maker. But, with the aid of friends of the family and, later, of the future King Christian VIII, he was enabled to attend the Academy of Art in Copenhagen. The faith placed in him by his patrons soon proved to have been justified. He was awarded the Academy's Gold Medal, which qualified him for a visit to Rome, the art-center *par excellence* of that day, and the dream-city of all Northern artists. He stayed there for ten years, from 1824 until 1834, gaining maturity under the skies of Italy, and encouraged in his work by his countryman in Rome, Bertel Thorvaldsen. Bissen was a constant visitor at the studio of the great sculptor and soon became Thorvaldsen's close assistant. When he returned to his native land he had already won recognition as a very fine artist, and important tasks were not long in coming to him.

From 1848 until 1850 Denmark was swept by the first Slesvig war. The enthusiasm over the fighting skill and bravery of both officers and men was overwhelming. Bissen was the artist chosen to create the monuments which were to commemorate those shining exploits and relate them to future generations. His great monuments, "The Warriors' Grave" at Fredericia, "The Foot Soldier," also at Fredericia, and



*The Lion of Isted*

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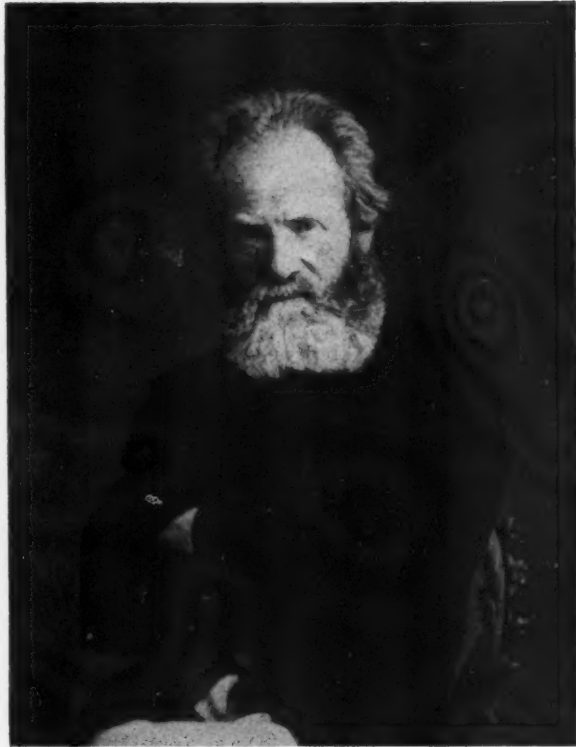


"The Isted Lion," will stand for all time as memorials to the glory of his country and to his own genius.

Bissen's monuments commemorate war and victory. They recall the most outstanding episodes of the first great struggle for the Duchies of Slesvig and Holsten. From olden times Danes and Germans had clashed here. Implacably, the struggle went on, and twice during the last century, as the adversaries resorted to arms to settle the conflict, war left its bloody trace in the provinces. In 1848, the German elements in Slesvig-Holsten demanded union

with the German Federation, in one realm. The Danes met this demand with a categorical refusal. The result was armed insurrection, and German armies were mobilized against Denmark. The war lasted for three years until, in July 1850, in the battle of Isted, Denmark victoriously checked the German menace.

One of the episodes which Bissen later commemorated, in what is perhaps the finest work of his entire career, deserves brief mention. It involved an exciting, rather sportslike, coup which may well appeal to the American imagination. The fortunes of war, favorable to the Danes in 1848, proved more capricious in 1849. The Germans had received reinforcements, and the Danish army had been forced to disperse. Near the fortified town of Fredericia, to which part of the Danish army had withdrawn, the situation was critical. The Germans were digging in and preparing to besiege and shell the town. Then something happened which, in a flash, presaged the saboteur spirit of a later generation. Quietly, under cover of darkness, the Danish army leader, General F. R. H. Bülow, managed to give the slip to the pursuing enemy and succeeded in bringing reinforcements to Fredericia by



*Herman Vilhelm Bissen*



*Warriors' Grave at Fredericia*

boat. The Germans had no inkling of what was afoot. On July 6, 1849, at midnight, about twenty thousand Danish soldiers stood by, ready to make a sally from the besieged town. The order was given and the battle famous in Danish history followed, crushing the Slesvig-Holsten army of insurgents. But the price was high: more than thirty officers, among them the gallant Norwegian General Olaf Rye and some five hundred men killed and thirteen hundred wounded. Those were high figures for the limited scale of warfare of a century ago. The soldiers who lost their lives were buried in Trinitatis' Cemetery at Fredericia. A burial mound was thrown up and a stone wall erected with the name of each soldier engraved, as shown in the illustration. This grand and stirring memorial was planned and constructed by the eminent architect, M. G. Bindesböll. But its crowning glory was Bissen's bronze relief of two soldiers carrying their dead comrade to the grave. This monument was inaugurated on July 6, 1853, anniversary of the battle of Fredericia. Many among those present had fought in that battle.

But Bissen was also able to express the triumph of this victorious July 6 and the joy and pride it inspired. A country-wide collection had been taken up, to erect the right kind of monument. And Bissen was

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the artist selected to create it. We still have a number of his sketches showing how he went about the task. Classicism was the prevailing style of his day, and Bissen started out with a series of mythological sketches. Dissatisfied with these ancient symbols, which to him did not represent the truth, he experimented with new ideas until, by a stroke of genius, he hit on the innermost core of Denmark's resolute, undaunted fighting spirit: the Danish soldier. By virtue of the recently adopted system of universal conscription the Danish fighting men had come to represent a cross



*Danish Foot Soldier*

section of the youth of the entire country. For the first time in history, here was a monument to victory which did not represent ancient gods hurling thunderbolts at a panic-stricken adversary. No, here was a plain man of the people, dressed in a simple soldier's uniform. Unpretentious, with candid joy, he gives vent to his happiness at having crushed the powers of evil. A leading Danish art historian sums it up thus: "Here the wondering contemporaries saw the art of sculpture descend from its high classic pedestal and speak good, strong *Danish*." This monument, too, was inaugurated on an anniversary of the battle of Fredericia, on July 6, 1858.

The battle of Isted, July 25, 1850, determined the outcome of the Three Years' War. On July 24, the Germans, strongly entrenched near the town of Isted, were attacked by the Danish army, led by General G. C. Krogh. Next day, July 25, the crucial battle ensued; the enemy army was put to flight, and peace was secured. Again Bissen was asked to give, in a monument, a dignified expression to Denmark's joy at victory and the end of the war.

The bronze lion of Isted is at once a monument to victory and to the dead. It was placed in the cemetery at Flensburg, where the fallen warriors had been put to rest. Towering on its granite plinth, the lion guarded the brave men killed in battle. At the same time its watchful gaze was directed towards the South, a warning to the aggressor who had recently had a taste of the lion's strength. The underlying idea was a daring one, and the irreconcilable adversary never forgave this audacity. The monument was inaugurated July 25, 1862.

In many respects the recent ceremony at Copenhagen resembled that of more than eighty years ago. We are fortunate enough to have an eyewitness account of that event, recorded by one of the greatest contemporaries, Hans Christian Andersen. Denmark's famous writer of fairy tales had been invited to attend the function, and we quote from his diary. He tells of his arrival at Flensburg, where he "went to bed early." "This morning I went out, and noticed a goodly number of Danish flags in the streets." He briefly describes the drive to the cemetery and continues: "We had admission to the circle closest to the monument. From Tönder came all the students of the Danish Folk High School. They wore white caps with red cockades. I addressed one of them; then a teacher came up and told them who I was, and they all doffed their caps, saluting me in very friendly fashion. They had brought a fine song with them; the weather was fine, though very windy. I felt rather nervous; I was sitting on one of the graves where several soldiers had been buried." After a few words about the inauguration speech, Andersen goes on to say: "A volley of twenty-five shots was fired when the veil came down and the lion appeared, grandiose, its gaze watchful and observant." Andersen then describes the enthusiasm with which the assembly sang Peter Faber's popular song *Den tapre Landsoldat* about the Danish soldier who went to war, and he concludes: "The voices of the fallen men seemed to echo among the tombs."

\* \* \*

In his address at the inauguration of the Isted lion in 1862, the great politician and theologian Professor H. N. Clausen mentioned the harsh price exacted for South Jutland, and presaged even greater sacrifices. He was grievously right. Fourteen years after the conclusion of the first war, and only one year and six months after the erection of the lion monument, Denmark became involved in a new war. In 1864, *faced with the combined German and Austrian armies*, she succumbed. Hardly was Flensburg occupied by the Prussian armies than the Germans voiced a demand for removal of the lion. German workmen tried

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to wrench it from its pedestal, but at that point the German army chief intervened, and the monument was quietly shipped to Berlin, where it ended up in the courtyard of the Cadet School in Gross Lichterfelde.

That the Germans, in removing the lion, were guilty of grave-robbery is evident and cannot be glossed over. This opinion is shared by the impartial observer. The French art historian, Eugène Plon, tells how the Austrians honored and guarded the monument to *Landsoldaten* in Fredericia, having learned to respect a gallant adversary, whereas the Germans "with their customary brutality" triumphantly removed the Isted lion to Berlin. At last they had got the better of "the lion whose menacing gaze was turned southward."

After that there was silence about the lion until the Danes, in 1920, about the time of the reunion of South Jutland with Denmark, suggested that the lion be returned. However, nothing came of it. The second world war followed: Germany was crushed, Berlin taken. The thought occurred to a Danish newspaperman, Henrik V. Ringsted, that at last the hour had struck! He succeeded in enlisting the interest



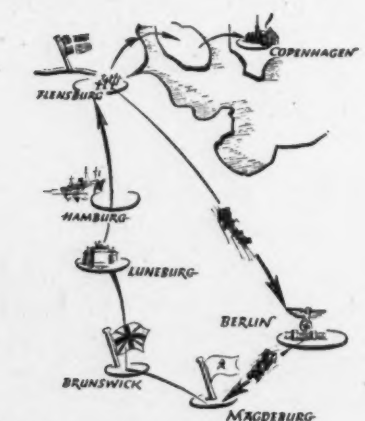
*Isted Lion at Berlin*

of the American authorities in whose sector the lion stood, and the incredible happens: the lion is sped on its way back to its people!

On October 20, 1945, the American Minister to Denmark, Mr. Monnett B. Davis, expressed to the Danish King his joy that the American army had been instrumental in carrying out this deed of justice. In his address



*En Route*



*Wanderings —*  
OF THE DANISH LION OF ISTED  
— 1850-1945

## *The Lion Goes Home*

JOHN REISER, MEMORIAL



PREPARED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OF THE FIRST ARMY GROUP

of acknowledgment and thanks, His Majesty Christian X said:

"Many years have elapsed since this monument last stood on Danish soil. In accepting the Lion of Isted I express my thanks to those who brought it back here, and to those who gave their lives. It was King Frederik VII and his generation who presented this lion to Flensburg, and, when circumstances again permit, it is fitting that it be returned to Flensburg and remain there as a memento to bygone days, and as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the Three Years War."

In making this statement the King solved the burning question as to the future emplacement of the lion.

In Denmark there is an old legend to the effect that, in her hour of direst need, the ancient national hero Holger Danske will return. Hoary and bent with age he sits, lost in thought, in the deepest casemate of Kronborg Castle at Elsinore. But when a great disaster descends on the Danes he wakes up to guide his people. During the five long years of the German occupation his voice, though muted, called forth a host of men and women who embodied his spirit to the world. When, in 1848, danger was approaching, he beckoned to his men and warded off the menace in open battle. Now the Lion of Isted has returned, bearing witness to Holger Danske's call to his countrymen in the past. And he will beckon again, should danger threaten. The Danish romantic poet, B. S. Ingemann, in a verse of his song-cycle about Ogier the Dane, has the hero address his compatriots:

You know it, Danes, I am not dead;  
Forceful I shall come back;  
My strength will stand you in good stead;  
Old Denmark naught shall lack.

American soldiers restored a Danish national symbol to the old country. In that moment the destinies of the two nations met.



*Ogier le Danois Beneath Kronborg Castle*

*Mogens Haugsted is an eminent Danish librarian. Knud Hendriksen is Danish editor of THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW. He is son of the famous wood-engraver and art connoisseur Fr. Hendriksen, who was, incidentally, Danish godfather of Henry Goddard Leach*

# Aphorisms from the Sagas

Selected and translated by I. Dorrum



**I**t is commonly the case with people of low estate when rising to distinction that pride keeps pace with promotion.

*Heimskringla*

Ill fated is the man who must spend his life in a foreign land.

*Njals Saga*

There is more in the heart of man than money can buy.  
Other things than money can comfort the heart of man.

*Grettis Saga*

The over-praised are the worst deceivers.

*Grettis Saga*

Most people try not to improve a tale if there is more than one version of it.

*Grettis Saga*

Fully faithful friends are rare finds.

*Kormaks Saga*

Not many are better spoken of than they deserve.

*Bandamanna Saga*

It is ill for a man to abide old age if deprived of sight and wit.

*Bandamanna Saga*



It was said of yore that alike are the owner and his goods.

*Viga-Glums Saga*



Many go to the goat-house to get wool.

*Grettis Saga*

It is ill to rouse a hasty temper.

*Grettis Saga*

It is better to start with little and watch it increase than to begin with much and see it grow less.

*Vatnsdaela Saga*

It is folly to brood over vain wishes.

*Volsunga Saga*

The byword of old is commonly true that one becomes more wretched as he grows older.

*Hrafnkels Saga Freysgotha*

Only the witless man will taunt and scorn the stranger.

*Viga-Glums Saga*



It is true as said of old that most dependable is your own hand.

*Viga-Glums Saga*

Ill rewards follow treachery towards one who trusts in you.

*Volsunga Saga*

A woman's glances betray her heart.

*Gunnlaugs Saga Ormstunga*

There is delight in the eye as long as it can see.

*Volsunga Saga*

It is not worth the while to take notice of dreams.

*Gunnlaugs Saga Ormstunga*

The evil-doer may expect evil.

*Vatnsdaela Saga*

No man, I see, may trust his might.

*Grettis Saga*

His luck and his heart will fail at death.

*Grettis Saga*

There are few more certain tokens of evil than not to know how to accept the good.

*Grettis Saga*



The unjust man prospers ill.

*Grettis Saga*

Bad company is worst when you have it with you from home.

*Gisla Saga Surssonar*

Be not guilty of greed nor of boasting. Both make a man worthy of blame.

*Hrolfs Saga Kraka*

His hands are clean who warns another.

*Njals Saga*

Live your life well and mingle with men.

*Saga of Howard the Halt*



*I. Dorrum is professor of Psychology in Luther College.*

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# Norwegian War Fiction

BY EUGENIA KIELLAND

**D**URING THE FIRST YEARS after Norway was invaded by the Germans and the King and Government had left the country to put six million tons of Norwegian merchant shipping into action for the United Nations, occupation left our literature more or less unmolested. It is true that a number of books considered dangerous to the Nazi regime were confiscated when found in publishers' storehouses or public libraries or even in private homes, if the Germans happened to visit them. New books, however, were permitted. Some of these were confiscated too, but the news of confiscation was spread so quickly by the publishers that all the copies were sold out before the sale could be stopped. Within half-an-hour of the report of confiscation delivery clerks from the publishing firms were all over the town. A whispering campaign from the bookstores did the rest, and by dinner time thousands of smiling purchasers had borne off the treasured volumes to their private book-shelves.

In March 1942 this mild policy was changed. The board of directors of the Gyldendal publishing house was dissolved, the director-in-chief, Harald Grieg, arrested, and a new board of directors installed including the painter son of Knut Hamsun. Immediately all writers connected with Gyldendal stopped sending them their manuscripts; only Nazi publications saw the light of day, and these were automatically boycotted by the public.

The other large publishing firm, Aschehoug, whose director, William Nygaard, is the grand old man of Norwegian publishing, was left in peace for another year. The reaction to the reprisals against Gyldendal had taught the occupation authorities something; they now tried to find a more effective way. In the summer of

1943, Aschehoug was given a Nazi censor to control the manuscripts accepted by the readers. The directors were allowed to go on with their work. The staff readers then, acting in agreement with the directors, rejected *all* manuscripts. In the course of the following two years, not a single manuscript reached the censor. All saboteurs, of course, ran a certain risk, and Magister Mads Nygaard, the junior director, was arrested and sent to Grini, but was kept there only three months. Later the Home Front passed along the directive that no books were to be published at all. After that decree only Nazi publications were on sale, and no one bought them!

But during the first years of occupation and before the Nazi became aggressive about books, many good novels and some memoirs of real interest were published. To begin with the latter:

JOHAN BOJER gave his book of memoirs the title of "Prentice Boy" and said in the preface that it was to be followed by a second volume, called "The Journeyman." "But," added the author with wily modesty, "as the journeyman never became a master craftsman, it will have to stop there."

Bojer has chosen a straightforward method of telling the story of his life. No doubt he records events as near to reality as it is possible, but memory makes its own selection, and, as Bojer is a man of imagination, we may regard the book as a mixture of facts and fiction. Very charming it is with its humour, its genial interpretation of people and their actions, and its half ironic, half self-conscious picture of his own youthful self.

Two things are characteristic of this youth: indomitable optimism and great social ambition, the effect of which was a hunger for reading, for acquisition of

knowledge, and especially an understanding of everything connected with that "High Life" which the novels revealed to him. In a loving way he tells us about his poor but affectionate foster-parents in a fisherman's home in Rissa, near Trondheim. From there he moved to a farm where he advanced to the position of a farmhand, with better food and with horses and carts at his disposal. But at the back of his mind there always lived the unknown father in Trondheim, "the millionaire" who kept things running smoothly for him. He had the boy sent to a district school and later to a school for non-commissioned officers. Very amusingly Bojer relates how the sergeant-major gave him his first lessons in "elegant manners," the only rules of conduct he had to cling to when some years later he went to Paris.

But the millionaire died, and was so little of a millionaire that he could leave his son only a small sum; and with this sum in his pocket, Johan Bojer starts on his journey through the world. At first the path is thorny; he suffers from a feeling of homelessness; he has no relatives in the town of Trondheim where he lives and is a stranger in both of the two social milieus between which he oscillates. The Good Templar Society which he joins proves to be of great help; here he finds comrades and joins a group for discussions and speeches; he takes part in amateur theatricals and acts in comedies and gets his first poem printed.

Soon fortune smiles upon him. He is only twenty-two when he sends his first story to a publisher and his first play to a theatre. Both are accepted and suddenly he becomes a poet.

Off he rushes to Paris, where he meets Knut Hamsun. No doubt this is the place for a young poet! He hastens to see well-known Norwegian writers there; open-eyed he wanders through museums, keeps late hours; for that is what one must do in Paris; drinks in thousands of new impressions; and then returns home to write *Et folketog*, a story taken straight out of

the milieu he knows so well from his childhood. This book with its clarity, its strong opinions, and sharp satire of Norwegian politics was something new in those days of the Neo-romantic literary movements. It attracted attention and made a name for the young writer.

We follow him for some years. He is travelling, working, and dreaming about "her," the woman he longs for but does not know. And when the story ends, he has found her and won her, the loved one who graced his life through all the long years.

"Prentice Boy" is an entertaining book and a work of distinction, because it gives us a key to the understanding of Bojer as a writer. The warm feeling of intimacy with the simple people along the fjords that we find in his best books, and the uncertainty of style and conception of some of his other writings can both be traced back to his early life. The double milieu holds his imagination and helps to create an atmosphere of ambitions and dreams which in youth may mean as much as reality.

GABRIEL SCOTT has cast his memoirs in the form of a novel and is therefore able to let his imagination have free play. "The Dream of a Dream" is retrospective in the method of its construction. Finn Eggen, the hero, is lying ill and lonely in a hospital in a foreign town. In the contemplative calm that accompanies convalescence he dreams of the life that is left behind him. According to his dream, he is sitting in a park, and every day a young woman approaches him, looks at him with clear, pure eyes, and passes him by. In that way life has passed him: the longing for unattainable things which has never been satisfied has become the dominant motive in the mind of the dreamer.

Then the years go by in review. Scott describes Finn Eggen's childhood in a shipowner's house in England and afterwards in Norway. Finn loves his mother more than anybody else. She had once been an actress, but hides this discreditable fact from the bourgeois society in which she lives. Only when she and her

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boy are alone does she give full rein to her imagination and vivacity. It is from her the boy has his romantic feeling, his restless artist's mind and his sense of imagery. He makes friends with a shepherd boy, Marius, and through him he enters an intimate relationship with animals and birds, stones, and trees. They fill him with feelings of mystery, excitement, and wonder. We recognize these emotions in several of Scott's books, especially "The Source," a book about the fisherman Markus. Soon the early erotic impulses awaken. Storms of temptations and torments harass his mind; strong physical desire is in conflict with conscience and a longing for purity. He is in opposition to his father in a way typical of the eighties of the last century, when the young rebel scorns the bourgeoisie and denies the authority of parents in order to realize his aspirations as a free artist.

At this point the book widens its scope to make room for a spirited defense of the Neo-romantic school of the nineties. Sharply Scott contests the "shoemaker-realism" of the eighties and fights for the right of the artist to devote himself to the service of beauty and love.

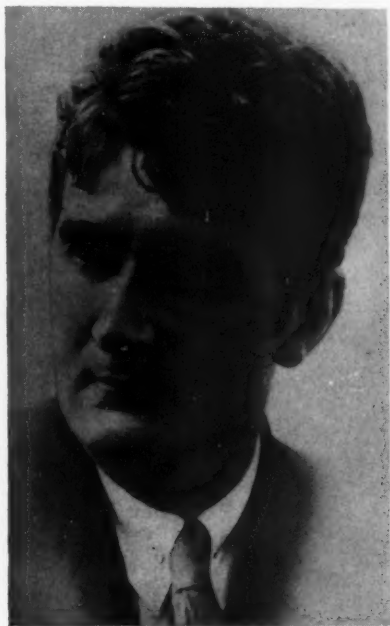
It is one of the great events in our world of books when JOHAN FALKBERGET comes down, at long intervals, from the mountains where he has his home and brings us one of his rare books. Up there, in the stillness of the surroundings of Røros he lives with the poetic material all around him which, by close study and

experience, he has made his own. Very rarely, indeed, can a poet identify himself so completely with the reality he himself has created. When he descends from his cloud-wreathed heights, his poet's mind bears the stamp of that strange and faraway world of his imagination, full of visions of ancient days, with nature unbendingly austere and for-

bidding, and human beings in their rough crudity whom we can hardly recognize as our own kind. Yet, it is ourselves, humanity on its forward march that he describes. Through all the darkness and confusion of the human mind we catch glimpses of a higher nature of man, and this helps us to find our way in the wild and fantastic milieu to which Falkberget introduces us.

*Nattens Bröd*, "The Bread of Night": the title itself reads like a sacred poem. The book takes us back to the end of the seventeenth century, fifty years before the time

of Falkberget's masterpiece "Christianus Sextus," the history of the smelting works of Røros. Further north, on the northern slopes of Dovrefjeld, a smelting kiln had existed from earlier times. In his new book Falkberget describes the life around these works. It is the first encounter between poor Highland folks and Capital. Dazzled by the sight of the new perspectives opening to them through the power of money, they abandon their unprofitable farming and rush to the smelting works as miners and ore-drivers. "Money, money!" is the cry of the greedy hearts. But greater poverty and misery is often the



Johan Falkberget

only answer to their cry. All are poor, from the manager to the lowest paid worker, and each tries to squeeze as much as possible out of his subordinates. The owner of the works lives far away in Denmark, and under absolutism and foreign dominion there is no one to whom to appeal for redressing men's wrongs.

"The Bread of Night" gives very moving pictures of hunger, cold, brutality, and inhuman toil of man and beast. But there is a light even mellow than the cold winter sun or the Northern lights and the wild gleams from the charcoal fires that fall on this landscape. It is the knowledge of the Bible among the people, acquired through the influence of Lutheranism. An ecstatic will to sacrifice oneself to others we meet in pastor Jens Bernhoft, and romantic passion is symbolized by the wild rose that the young mining clerk plants outside the door of An-Margritt. Fascinating also are the alchemic speculations of master Jörgen on the mystical nature of copper. But most of all are we captivated by the figure of An-Margritt, crude, but with a strength and directness of mind which promises to develop in her an authentic character.

When we look back at Falkberget's novel, we see it in our mind's eye as a series of magnificent imaginative pictures. There is not much plot, and few things happen, as life up in the mountains is monotonous. But the work is full of poetry and pious wisdom. A powerful book, wild yet tender; and realistic as it is to the point of mercilessness, there flickers over it the fantastic light of the blazing charcoal fires on the wild mountain slopes. An-Margritt is the central figure of the book; in her Falkberget has personified the people of the mountains and their progress from the level of primitive slaves to a higher mental plane.

One of the most characteristic features of the literature of the last years is this vivid interest shown by writers and readers in books on historical subjects. In times of stress, the awakening desire for

self-knowledge and self-analysis makes people turn to history in search of spiritual enlightenment. A remarkable book of this kind is INGE KROKANN's *Under himmelteknet*, "Under the Sign in the Sky." Inge Krokann comes from Opdal, south of Trondheim, where he was a teacher in a Folk High School. Illness forced him to give up his work; soon afterwards he began to publish a series of novels, which reach their fulfilment in this his latest book. The subject of the book is the struggle of Norwegian farmers against Danish officialdom during the time of the Danish domination. We follow this struggle through the actions of the leaders who, each in his own way, oppose the Danish functionaries, marshals, and country treasurers who oppress the people and violate the law. Of course, this gives the author an opportunity to denounce tyranny and lawlessness in strong and pointed words. The author's meaning was well understood by all good Norwegian readers, but Nazi authorities could not take exception to a plot laid at the beginning of the seventeenth century!

Very fascinating is the description of the journey of Steingrim of Lo from Trondheim to Copenhagen to lay the cause of the peasants before the king. We hear about his meetings with men of learning, with Anders Vedel in particular, whose interest in Norwegian folktales and folksongs gives Steingrim a new understanding of their beauty and value. On his way home he passes Telemark, the very centre of Norwegian folklore, and the book gives vivid pictures of life in that colorful district.

Krokann knows that human beings remain the same despite the passage of time; that love and friendship, the will to freedom, the feelings of awe and fear towards the great Unknown which works behind everything are today as they were three hundred years ago. Even the struggle between Good and Evil in the outside world as in the heart of man is the same. It brings the world which Krokann paints

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quite near to us. When the book was published it gave stimulus and encouragement to those who read, by showing how Norway had faced her difficulties in the past and stood resolute now until the day of liberation.

One of our most prominent novelists, SIGURD CHRISTIANSEN, when the war broke out was at work on his subtle volumes about the development of an artist's mind, the first two of which had already been published. Under war conditions he felt he had to stop; he chose instead another subject which always has been of interest to him. In "The Man with the Petrol Station" he keeps close to the central ideas with which we are familiar from his earlier books: the question of guilt and atonement has again inspired him in writing an important book. The title of the book leads us to think it a detective story, and we know what a thrilling one Christiansen can write. The opening pages of the book, the quick start, the bold grasp of the subject, the matter and the tension he creates from the very beginning, show how well he can master his technique when he wants to. But the reader quickly understands on what plane the action of this book lies: here, as always with Sigurd Christiansen, mental drama is the thing that fascinates him. The quick tempo of the start gives way to a much slower pace which allows him time for contemplation and reflection.

Julius Klyver, the owner of a petrol station, listening to his wireless one evening, hears suddenly that the woman to whom he had been married many years ago has been killed in some mysterious way. Klyver is looked upon by everybody as a man like thousands of others, quiet and reserved, occupied with his work, his pipe, his books, and his collection of

stamps. But as the image of his wife becomes alive in his memory, he feels the need of finding out the psychological secrets which have shaped her life and her relations to him. Little by little he unveils himself as quite a different person from the one that he appeared to be. The peace and quietness which he enjoyed and which he had defended with all his might, he possessed only owing to his ability to banish from his conscience certain evil memories from his younger days. When they are actually awakened, the intense bitterness, the hatred and resentment which sleep at the bottom of his mind become alive again. Like a mist they rise, blinding him to every possibility of seeing any fault in himself.

How Klyver, by his efforts to penetrate the mystery of his wife's life, is cured of his hatred and self-righteousness is the real subject of the book. It is interesting to see how the feeling of guilt in Christiansen's books is often the solution of mental conflict: when a man in distress reaches the point where he can see his own fault, the ice melts in the frozen heart, and restoration is within sight. With his wide knowledge of the human mind and acute sense of psychological cohesion, Sigurd Christiansen makes this development living and convincing. Without any obtrusive moralizing, the book speaks impressively about the inner weakness of self-sufficiency and the strength of humility, the bitterness of hatred and the joy of forgiving and understanding.

A hundred years ago Henrik Wergeland, in a time of hard trials, said about himself: "My soul is healthy under the flagellations." The books mentioned in this article bear witness that the soul of Norway kept healthy and hearty under the trials of occupation and war.

*Eugenia Kielland is a Norwegian schoolteacher who has written other articles for the REVIEW.*

# The Literary Scene in Iceland

By RICHARD BECK

**N**O VISITOR TO ICELAND who is at all interested in literature, and especially if he is familiar with the Icelandic language, can fail to be impressed by the extensive and varied activity in the realm of letters in the present-day land of the sagas. During the last few years publication of books in Iceland has been on a much larger scale than ever before, although it had previously been greater than anywhere else in proportion to the population.

A survey of the field shows that the largest number of books which have appeared in Iceland during the war years are novels, original and translated. Within that branch of literature are also to be

found some of the most important works published during the period.

Particularly notable is *Islandsklukkan* (The Bell of Iceland, 1943) by HALLDOR KILJAN LAXNESS, the beginning of a new serial by that versatile and highly gifted author. The novel derives its name from a bell, which hangs in the meeting house at Thingvellir, and is, in the words of the story, "the only common possession of the Icelandic people that had monetary value." In compliance with a royal demand, this historic bell is removed from its place, to be shipped to Copenhagen along with other brass or copper found elsewhere in the country. The removal of the bell is carried out by the King's hangman in Iceland, assisted—under compulsion—by one Jon Hreggvidsson, who had been imprisoned for a minor theft, later unjustly accused of killing the hangman and sentenced to death. With the assistance of his aged mother, who has enlisted the aid of a maiden of noble estate, he succeeds at the last moment in fleeing to Holland, reaching Copenhagen after much hardship and many vicissitudes, where he at last gains permission to have his case reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Jon Hreggvidsson, the central figure of this stirring novel, ever fearless and defiant, becomes at the hands of the gifted novelist a striking symbol of the oppressed Icelandic nation, its heroic spirit, and its quest for justice down through the centuries. While not a historical novel in the ordinary sense of the word, it nevertheless reveals graphically, often with heart-rending realism, the miserable conditions in Iceland during the seventeenth century, one of the darkest periods in the country's history. With his unusual mastery of language Laxness has suc-



Halldor Kiljan Laxness



ceeded in clothing the theme of his novel in a fitting style, which is at once personal and characteristic of the period in question.

Equally noteworthy is the second volume of this serial, published shortly before last Christmas and entitled *Hid ljosa man* (The Fair Maiden). It is the tragedy of the heroine of *Islandsklukkan*, who sacrifices all for the man she loves. Here are, however, many other life-like and memorable characters, and the story is told with deep understanding and sympathy, despite its relentless realism.

GUDMUNDUR GISLASON HAGALIN, who is one of the most productive and most individual Icelandic authors of the day, published two important books in 1943, a novel and a volume of short stories. The novel, *Blitt laetur veroldin* (Pleasant Appears the World) is the story of the sojourn of a small-town boy in the country during an eventful summer. The heroine is the hired girl on the farm, also town-bred. It is a very well-told story, remarkable for the insight with which he interprets the thought and emotional life of the characters, not least in the case of the young boy, who is just at the adolescent stage.

Hagalin has long since proved himself a master of the short story. This new volume of his in that field, *Forunautar* (Companions), which contains eight short stories and a longer one, in reality a full-length novel, adds to his reputation, for several of the stories in the collection rank with the best he has written. His descriptive power, fluent style, and refreshing humor are all here, along with his effective interpretation of the life and lot of the common man.

GUNNAR GUNNARSSON's return from Denmark to Iceland, previously described in the REVIEW, naturally aroused unusual interest on the part of his countrymen and was a matter of general gratification; his return also drew attention to the fact that many of his best known and



Gunnar Gunnarsson

most outstanding works, originally published in Danish, were not as yet available in Icelandic. Fortunately, this is now being remedied with a collected edition of his works in his native tongue. Several volumes of his monumental series of autobiographical novels have already appeared in an excellent translation by Halldor Kiljan Laxness.

Gunnarsson's readers in Iceland are eagerly awaiting a new novel from his pen. In the meantime he has, aside from a number of significant magazine articles, published a splendid edition, with a detailed and discriminating introduction, of the poems of Pall Olafsson, long dear to the heart of the common people of Iceland.

The first novel written in Icelandic by KRISTMANN GUDMUNDSSON after his return from Norway to his native land some years ago was received with much interest. Published in 1943, it is entitled *Natttrollid glottir* (The Giant Grins), getting its symbolic title from a giant-shaped rock,



Kristmann Gudmundsson

towering above the rural district where the story takes place, its action centering in the leading man in the community whose tragedy is here enacted. Many other persons also play a part, as the stage is a crowded one. The novel is noteworthy for a fast-moving plot, vivid characterizations, and nature descriptions as well as general technical excellence. During the past few years Gudmundsson has also published a number of well-written short stories, a field in which he has excelled before, and has translated Sigrid Undset's *Return to the Future* into Icelandic.

*Johannes ur Kotlum* (Johannes Jonsen), already established as a leading lyric poet, with numerous excellently wrought patriotic and nature poems as well as challenging social satires to his credit, and one novel, has written the first novel dealing with the occupation of Iceland by British and American troops, *Verndarenglarnir* (The Guardian Angels, 1943). Through the experiences of one

farm family, whose members are in various ways drawn into events resulting from the occupation, the author undertakes to portray the attitude of the Icelandic nation generally to the armed forces stationed in the country as well as the problems resulting from that situation.

Gudmundur Danielsson has now published the third and what may be the concluding volume in his significant series, which began with the novel *Af jord ertu kominn* (Dust Thou Art) in 1941 and continued with *Sandur* in 1942, a present-day story dealing with the struggle against environment, the elements of nature, and conflicting currents of thought. The latest volume, *Landid handan landsins* (The Land Beyond the Land, 1944), bears witness to the wide sympathy of the author, is written in a vigorous style and marked by vivid description and some very excellent characterization. Last year he also published a collection of short stories, which have attracted deserved attention.

While the novel and the short story occupy an increasingly prominent place in modern Icelandic literature, poetry, the time-honored Icelandic literary form, continues in high favor, with new names appearing every year.

Among the foremost older poets now living is JAKOB THORARENSEN, who can look back over a literary career of 30 years and has won equal acclaim for his original and vigorous poems and his masterly short stories. Two new volumes of his poems have appeared during the past few years, *Haustsnjoar* (Autumn Snows, 1942) and a collection of his numerous quatrains (1943), both equally characteristic of his intellectual vigor, fearless realism, and mastery of form.

David Stefansson, long a great favorite with the poetry-loving Icelandic reading public, as evinced by the national homage rendered him on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday last winter, has shown an

equal mastery of Icelandic prose with his brilliant two-volume novel, *Solon Islandur* (1940), and made a no less notable contribution to modern Icelandic drama with his play, *Gullna hlidid* (The Golden Gate, 1941), which was shown between sixty and seventy times on the Reykjavik stage during the season of 1941-42.

He made another contribution to Icelandic drama and present-day literature with his timely and impressive play, *Vopn gudanna* (The Weapons of the Gods, 1944), which is directly inspired by the world-wide struggle of today between dictatorship and democracy, tyranny and freedom, although clothed in the garb of a medieval romance. The impassioned message of this poetic drama left a deep and lasting impression upon the large number who saw it at the Reykjavik theater last year.

Tomas Gudmundsson, another great favorite in the middle-aged group of Icelandic lyric poets, added to his reputation and stature with his third volume of poems, *Stjornur vorsins* (Stars of Spring, 1940), revealing anew and in a still more marked degree his rare mastery of form, whimsicality and originality. Here can also be detected that deeper note and widening sphere of interest and sympathy which have characterized his later poems. Clearly, he has not been left untouched by the world-shaking events of the past few years.

In the field of Icelandic history and literary scholarship much notable work has been accomplished in recent years or is under way, including the first extensive history of Iceland. The most significant contribution in that field, however, and the first cultural history of Iceland in the true sense of the word, is Dr. SIGURDUR NORDAL's *Islensk menning* (Icelandic Culture), the first volume of which appeared in 1942. The history of the Icelandic nation is here interpreted down to the end of the old republic (1264). The emphasis is constantly on cultural mani-

festations and the forces determining these and the nation's destiny.

A few years ago Dr. Nordal delivered over the Icelandic Broadcasting System a series of lectures on philosophical and religious subjects. These, together with his many brilliant articles and essays on literary and cultural themes, are now appearing in a collected edition.

The national spirit is, as already indicated, much in evidence in present-day Icelandic literature, a tendency which has no doubt been intensified by the presence of British and American military forces in the country. This spirit expresses itself not only in a vigorous interest in the history of the country as a whole and its old classics, which are being published in better and more widely circulated editions than ever before, but also in the publication of local histories from various parts of the country, and in a constant stream of collections of folklore, of which there seems to be an inexhaustible supply.

At the same time the Icelanders keep wide open the window facing the outside world in matters literary, witness the numerous recent translations. Naturally, during the war years, these translations have largely consisted of American and English works, or of works from other languages available in English translations, as the connection with the Scandinavian countries has been temporarily disrupted.

Despite these difficulties, the feeling of kinship with the other Northern nations and interest in their fate and culture on the part of the Icelanders has in no way diminished. This is seen, for instance, in numerous translations of Norwegian books into Icelandic in recent years.

More significant is the fact, however, that during the war there have been published in Iceland new works by Scandinavian authors. Nordahl Grieg's last volume of poems, *Friheten*, was first

published in Iceland, and Kaj Munk's drama *Niels Ebbesen* had its first performance in Iceland and was also published there for the first time in book-form, to be sure in an Icelandic translation. The same interest in the welfare of other Scandinavian countries, in particular in the heroic struggle of Norway and Denmark against the invaders, can be

seen in the translation of several books dealing with that subject.

The literary scene in present-day Iceland is, therefore, one of much varied activity, indicative of the rich spiritual and intellectual life of the Icelandic nation as well as of its awareness of its historical tradition and contemporary currents of thought.

*Richard Beck is professor of Scandinavian in the University of North Dakota*

## Finland's Juniper

BY IVAR CALLMANDER

*Freely translated from the Swedish by CHARLES WHARTON STORK*

THE southland cypress may tempt a while,  
And the palm of the desert too,  
But the juniper by the old stone wall  
Will never loose hold on you.

Alike in the winter midnight  
Or when summer suns glare down,  
It lifts the gnarled-bough candlestick  
Of its green and prickly crown.

And if countless hordes of foemen  
Should harry with sword and flame  
The patient soil of your home-land,  
It will bide there still the same.

The sun will waken again to life  
The seeds in the blackened earth,  
And patriot songs gleam out again  
Like gold in a bright rebirth.

Again shall the juniper quicken,  
And in many a peaceful ring  
Shall cottage smoke be wafted up  
In the light of a new-born spring.

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# Danish Books for American Libraries

## 1940 - 1944

Compiled by Mogens Iversen, Librarian at the State Library Commission of Denmark.

### FICTION

**Aabye, Karen.** *Det skete ved Kisum Bakke.* Nyt Nordisk Forlag. 1942. \$2.55.

**Aabye, Karen.** *Fruen til Kejsergaarden.* Nyt Nordisk Forlag. 1943. \$2.60.

**Aabye, Karen.** *Vi der elsker Livet.* Nyt Nordisk Forlag. 1944. \$2.40.

The first book of this trilogy deals with the young, musically talented Jesper's development into a famous artist. Later the two dominant roles are played by two contrasting women characters, Birte, who becomes mistress of Kejsergaarden, and Irene, the woman of the world. Three entertaining novels which give an excellent picture of life in Denmark during the 19th century.

**Branner, H. C.** *To Minutters Stilhed.* Branner. 1944. \$2.35.

One of the best collections of short stories to be published in Denmark during the war. These psychological studies include some particularly fine interpretations of children.

**Buchardt, Johanne.** *Guds og Menneskers Ager.* Aschehoug. 1942. \$1.95.

A very attractive novel about a young man with great talent for painting who comes in conflict with the narrow-minded country villagers. The author is a former seamstress who, within a short time, has emerged as one of the best Danish novelists.

**Ditlevsen, Tove.** *Barndommens Gade.* Athenæum. 1943. \$2.55.

Tove Ditlevsen is one of the most promising young Danish writers and has won wide reputation both as poet and novelist. She recollects in this novel her childhood's Copenhagen and writes with realism and a fine sense of local color.

**Dons, Aage.** *Her mødes alle Veje.* Nyt Nordisk Forlag. 1941. \$2.60.

A dramatic novel where the triangle, a young woman, her brother and a friend, results in a murder.

**Freuchen, P.** *Hvid Mand.* Westermann. 1943. \$2.60.

A thrilling description of old-time Greenland where criminals and prostitutes were sent from Denmark to experience a severe life. The highlight of this book is an attempt to explore the inland-ice on horseback.

**Lauesen, Marcus.** *Den rige Vandring.* Fremad. 1940. \$1.35.

Southern Jutland has given Denmark an author who in spite of his failure with the novel *Og nu venter vi paa Skib* has shown great talent for the psychological novel. *Den rige Vandring* is a beautiful description of the humble life of a poor farmer in Southern Jutland.

**Lauring, Palle.** *Vitellius.* Carit Andersen. 1944. \$3.50.

This first novel written by a Copenhagen teacher has received great attention, not only as a fine description of the imperial Rome but also because the author, in giving the attitude of his main character during a politically restless period, provides a point of comparison to present times.

**Lindemann, Kelvin.** *Huset med det grønne Træ.* Hasselbalch. 1943. \$3.75.

One of the best sellers during the war. The time is the 18th century and the story that of a Copenhagen tradesman's family who undertake a long voyage to the old Danish colonies, the Nicobar Islands and the Guinea coast. The amusing description of the Copenhagen middle class as well as the adventures in the tropics make this book a highly entertaining one.

**Nygaard, Jacob Bech.** *Guds blinde Øje.* Forlaget af 1939. 1941. \$2.40.

**Nygaard, Jacob Bech.** *Du blev Trael.* Forlaget af 1939. 1941. \$2.40.

These two novels have gained many readers. They depict the frightful conditions in a fosterhome for girls. Particularly the first volume is convincing in its realism.

**Soya, C. E.** *Min Farmors Hus.* Nordiske Landes Bogforlag. 1943. \$3.00.

The story of a little boy who grows up in the home of his grandmother. He has lost his mother, and his father becomes attached to a woman whom the grandmother poisons in fear of losing her son and grandson. The author shows sensitive understanding of a child's mind, which makes the book an extremely stirring novel.

**Søndergaard, Ludvig.** *Helsilke.* Hasselbalch. 1943. \$3.75.

A charming, slightly sentimental novel about a poor home where the mother, with her strong love for life, fights to keep the family together . . . and succeeds.

Wulff, Hilmar. *Som Vejret i April*. Gyldendal. 1942. \$2.00.

Wulff, Hilmar. *Saadan noget sker faktisk*. Gyldendal. 1943. \$2.35.

Two popular novels about the life in a fishing village during the first world war. We follow Emil through his childhood till the time he goes out to sea. We follow him in foreign lands, his experiences during the critical years when he finds himself homeless in Copenhagen and finally see him return to his father and to work. The story is continued in a third novel, *Arbejdets Sang*, which was published in 1945.

### GENERAL

Bang, Jette. *Grønland*. Hasselbalch. 1940. \$3.60.

A beautiful work with magnificent photographs illustrating both the nature of the country and the life and cultural standards of its people.

Birket-Smith, K. *Kulturens Veje*. 2 volumes. Jespersen og Pio. 1941-42. \$11.55.

The first general ethnographical work in Danish. Illustrated.

*Bogen om Knud*. Westermann. Illustrated. 1943. \$4.75.

Several friends of the great Greenland explorer Knud Rasmussen have contributed to this book. Among them are such well-known names as Kai Birket-Smith, Harald Moltke, and Tom Kristensen, who write both about Knud Rasmussen's expeditions and his life in Denmark.

Bramsen, Henrik. *Dansk Kunst fra Rokoko til vore Dage*. Hirschsprung. 1942. \$4.15.

A well-outlined review of Danish art, popularly and entertainingly told and richly illustrated.

Broby-Johansen, R. *Hverdagskunst-Verdenskunst*. 3rd edition. Gyldendal. 1944.

A history of world art, written for the layman. The book has come out in several editions of which this one is the best. Illustrated.

Dahl, Svend. *Danmarks Kultur ved Aar 1940*. 8 volumes. Det Danske Forlag. 1941-43. \$24.00.

During the war and the occupation a demand was felt for putting down in writing the achievements of a culture threatened with destruction. An expression of this feeling is this beautiful work which deals with all aspects of Danish culture and is written by experts.

Friis, Aage, Axel Linvald og M. Mackeprang. *Schultz Danmarkshistorie*. 6 volumes. 1941-43. \$58.00.

Historic literature was popular during the occupation and one felt the lack of a comprehensive Danish history. The above is a

second edition of *Det Danske Folks Historie* of which several parts have been adopted without changes while for instance modern Danish history has been given more thorough treatment. A most representative work.

Hansen, H. P. *Hyrdeliv paa Heden*. Munksgaard. 1941. \$2.25.

This well-known museum and folklore expert has in this book given a description of life on the heath during the last century. An interesting, documentary work.

Koch, Hal. *Grundtvig*. Gyldendal. 1943. \$2.00.

The ideas of Grundtvig were uppermost in many people's minds during the occupation, and this easy-to-read, short book covers both the life and works of Grundtvig.

La Cour, Vilh. *Danmarks Historie*. 2 volumes. Berlingske Forlag. 1939-40. \$6.00.

A popular Danish history. The language shows originality, and some historic events have received personal interpretation. The illustrations are carefully selected and contribute much in making this a highly interesting work.

Müller, Th. A. *Den unge Ludvig Holberg*. Gyldendal. 1943. Illustrated. \$4.45.

The author is an expert on Holberg and his book sheds new light on the great Danish classic, giving at the same time a general picture of the cultural life in Holberg's time.

Munk, Kaj. *Foraaret saa sagte kommer*. Westermann. 1942. Illustrated. \$3.60.

The Danish minister-playwright had, before he was murdered by the Gestapo in the beginning of 1944, put down his memories from his childhood and youth. A stirring book about Kaj Munk's early life and student years.

Pontoppidan, Henrik. *Undervejs til mig selv*. Gyldendal. 1943. \$2.00.

A new, complete edition of the author's memoirs. A vivid picture of the life and work of a strong personality.

Poulsen, Frederik. *Jydske Dage og Mennesker*. Gyldendal. 1941. \$2.00.

An anthology of the author's best essays. A highly entertaining book.

Rung, Otto. *Fra min Klunketid*. Gyldendal. 1942. \$2.95.

The very popular novelist tells the story of his childhood and youth in the bourgeois circles of the old Copenhagen. An interesting autobiography as well as a book of historic value.

Wellejus, Th. *End er der Sang i Skoven*. Asa. Illustrated. 1941. \$1.95.

The story of the great Danish composers, told unpretentiously and well. A list of the modern Danish composers, with short biographical notes, is also included in this popular book.

# THE QUARTER'S HISTORY



**DENMARK**

THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE FACING the new Farmers' government in Denmark who took over after the parliamentary elections last fall under the leadership of Prime Minister Knud Kristensen are as manifold as those facing

the rest of the world. Denmark is in desperate need of fodder for her cattle, fertilizer for her fields, steel, machinery, and raw materials in general in order to keep up her agricultural production and exports of food to the less fortunate countries in Europe.

The bulk of the Danish exports, however, are being paid for in Sterling, while her imports call for payment in Dollars. The Anglo-American negotiations of a 4.4 Billion Dollar loan to Britain on the condition that Great Britain adhere to the Bretton Woods economical arrangements, the International Bank and the Monetary Fund, were therefore greeted with great pleasure in Denmark where it is hoped that it will soon be possible to exchange Danish Sterling credits with U.S. Dollars. As soon as a quota has been stipulated for Denmark's participation the Bretton Woods arrangements will be ratified in Copenhagen.

WHILE THE ACUTE and serious lack of foreign exchange is retarding industrial reconversion in Denmark and imports from abroad, agricultural production is continuing on a somewhat reduced scale compared to prewar figures. During the last eight months of 1945 Denmark has been pouring foodstuffs to a value of more than 600 Million Kroner into other liberated countries in Europe. These exports included some 65,000 tons of butter, 35,000 tons of bacon, eight thousand tons of eggs, and some various other products.

Denmark has offered to send beef to UNRRA and to several countries, and, if this offer is accepted, Denmark will be ready and willing to send more than 160,000 head of livestock and 10,000 calves. Already 22,000 head of cattle and 105,000 head of other livestock have been delivered to the British occupation forces in northern Germany, to Norway, and other countries.

In all of Europe the coal and fuel situation is desperate, and Denmark has agreed to deliver 35,000 cattle to the Allied authorities in a barter for coal from the Ruhr. Here the lack of transportation has been the most serious obstacle. According to reports, however, Denmark has lately succeeded in obtaining more railroad cars that will be used in bringing home the coal.

England, as was the case before the war, is still the greatest consumer of Danish products, taking over half of the exports. She is followed by Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland, and until the middle of October the United States Army in Europe was Denmark's second largest customer. At that time, however, American ships began bringing meat supplies from the States.

In order to supply more butter to the other liberated countries who are facing graver shortages of food the Danish government has ordered a considerable reduction in the Danish butter rations resulting in an increase in butter exports of more than 200 tons a week. Due to lack of fodder imports—cotton-seed cakes etc.—the butter production no doubt will show a decline during the winter months, and the bacon production has been reduced by some 30 percent under 1945, with exclusive export to England during this winter.

Besides these exports, great quantities of food have been sent abroad in the form

of GIFT PACKAGES. Some of these have been ordered by Americans and have been sent to relatives in Europe while a multitude of parcels have been sent abroad as gifts from the Danish people—either privately or through government agencies. Thus not less than 100,000 gift packages from Denmark with bacon, butter, and cheese were delivered to the British Legion in London to be forwarded to British soldiers. The packages have been sent by Danish families as a token of their deep gratitude for the liberation.

THE AMERICAN G.I. HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. Thousands upon thousands of G.I.s have accepted the invitation from the Danish government to spend their furlough in Denmark as guests of the Danish people. They live at the best resorts, in the best hotels. They are being entertained in Danish homes as only the hospitable and friendly Danes know how and they receive as a gift upon arrival a sum corresponding to \$75.00. With everything else free you can get a lot of fun out of that.

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER some of the most acutely felt shortages were partly relieved when Danish ships were returning with cargoes of coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, rice, and a number of other everyday commodities that had vanished during the occupation. *M/S Florida* brought the first load of 62,000 bags of raw coffee from Santos. She was received by thousands of people with a brass band and songs, and a couple of days later, before Christmas, coffee was sold once more, although in small rations.

Already before the arrival of the *M/S Florida*, however, great quantities of gift packages containing these priceless articles had been received in Denmark from friends and relatives in the United States, Great Britain, and from all the world over. One single ship from America brought more than 70,000 such packages in the early days of December, and the

deluge was growing all the way up to Christmas with thousands of packages undelivered before the holidays.

THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER, Knud Kristensen, spoke on December 9th to the Association of Danish Journalists and emphasized the difficulties facing his minority administration. "We must now carry through a reconstruction of our country and of all that which was destroyed during the war, not only in the economical and industrial fields but also in regard to law, order, and in our political life. In solving our problems," he said, "our main task must be to create new values for all of the people. We must create a better society, and I believe that it is better to have a country where few have too much and fewer too little than to live in a country where equality means that everybody has too little."

In this connection the prime minister said that the taxes must be reduced to a point where they will not kill initiative and that unemployment insurance must be kept at a level where it will still be to the advantage of the worker to work for a living.

Mr. Kristensen touched on the question of the purge of Danish occupation and war criminals, outright traitors, gangsters, Hipopeople (Danes who were members of the German organized *Hilfspolizei*) and others who have profited during the occupation by working for the Germans. "The purge has caused great bitterness," said Mr. Kristensen, "and there is no reason to be surprised when we remember the grave consequences the actions of these criminals had on our existence. Their punishment is not a question of revenge but a simple necessity in order to reconstruct law, order, and justice in Denmark." He said that Denmark in the main has come through the first months after the liberation better than there had been reason to expect.

In closing the prime minister called for cooperation with the government

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party in parliament and warned against a situation as in France before the war, where government after government was forced to resign due to lack of support from other parties. "If the Farmer's government," he said, "does not receive sufficient support to carry through its administrative work and get the necessary laws through parliament it can follow the example of other governments and retire." And he said that the Farmers' Party had only undertaken to form a cabinet because no other party had been willing to do so, but he did not think that it would be to the best interest of the country to have many rapid changes. "The government, however, will not be responsible for a policy dictated by the opposition. Here as everywhere else those responsible must also have the power."

One of the questions that may bring forth too great opposition to the present government is the proposed constitutional revision to lower the voting age from 25 to 21 years. Knud Kristensen's party is against this, while the opposition parties in parliament, the Socialdemocrats, Conservatives, Communists, the Radical-Lefts, and the Danish-Coalition Party, who jointly constitute an overwhelming majority, are for a revision. This and other problems must be solved, and it may mean that the Knud Kristensen government will be forced to resign.

WHEN WILHELM BUHL BECAME PRIME MINISTER in the coalition government that was established after the liberation he made it a condition that all members of the government should refrain from making demands for a revision of the border between Denmark and Germany in Slesvig. In a speech in parliament in December Prime Minister Knud Kristensen said that there is a difference between the coalition government's declaration in May 1945 and the stand of the present government. The Farmers' Party is of the opinion that the border question is not finally settled and that the border under

certain circumstances may be moved further south, although there is no foundation for such a move at present. "We would only be hampered in our work for the Danish minority living south of the border," he said, "if we took that stand." . . . "If," he continued, "a greater part of the people living south of the border under more normal conditions should want to be united with Denmark, then we will receive them with pleasure. Are the social democrats and the conservatives also willing to do that?" he asked. "Let us get clear lines in this matter."

Shortly after this speech a discussion took place about this problem at a meeting that was called by several of the Danish Slesvig Societies who were very instrumental in the national fight against the Germanization of Slesvig while that part of Denmark was under Germany in the years from 1864 to 1920. Mr. J. C. Mogensen, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, stated that of the 325,000 people living in Slesvig south of the present border 50,000 are immigrants from Germany proper. The original population counts some 275,000, whereof 60,000 are Frisians. Of the South-Slesvigians 20-25,000 are Danish-speaking, while the remaining 190,000 people are German-speaking. Mr. Mogensen said that these German-speaking people do not consider themselves Germans and that the majority might want to be united with Denmark.

The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, J. Christmas Möller, however, stated that it should not be forgotten that the population south of the border have been more Nazi-infected than people in any other German province. "I cannot understand," he said, "how it is possible that anybody has the audacity to carry on a campaign for a union with the southern part of Slesvig. North of the border, already, we have 30,000 Germans whom we want to have punished and expelled from Den-

mark. And then there are people who think that the moment we go south of the border we will find good Danish men, women, and children. I consider this pure nonsense."

The meeting was very unruly and closed with catcalls against Mr. Christmas Möller, who, however, stuck to his guns, as he has done on this question during the war and after his return to Denmark. "It would have been much easier for me," he said, "had I been willing to go along on this important question. But when I have spoken I have said what I hold to be truth and reason."

One of the leaders of the Danish population in Slesvig during the years all of Slesvig was under Germany, Nis Nissen, who even was elected a member of the German parliament in Berlin, spoke at a later meeting and said that the sudden and apparent change in the attitude among the Germans in South Slesvig toward Denmark is only caused by the fact that Germany's collapse after World War II is far more serious than the collapse after World War I. Now these people say that they are not Nazis. But in 1932, when Germany had her last free election before Hitler, and only 30 percent of the rest of the Reich voted Nazi, South Slesvig was 100 percent for Hitler. And he closed by saying that Denmark would be weakened nationally and from a strategic point of view if she ever accepted a union with the people living in South Slesvig, who would always be a Fifth Column in Denmark.

IN THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY the first of the leading Danish war criminals, Flemming Helweg-Larsen, was executed. The Supreme Court had refused his final appeal. He was sentenced to death for the murder of the Danish journalist Carl Henrik Clemmensen and for having worked as informer for the Germans. He was blindfolded and executed by a salvo of rifle fire.

DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS between the Danish and the American and British governments regarding the unfreezing of frozen Danish assets in those two countries, U.S.A. and Great Britain have presented Denmark with demands that all German assets in Denmark be liquidated in order to prove that none of the frozen assets belong to German firms or to the German government. This demand has been presented to all other countries and is part of the great campaign to make an end to all German influence through cartels and other economic arrangements.

There are two possibilities. The Danish government may take over all German assets in Denmark and enter them on a special account for the United Nations in Denmark's National Bank for later disposal according to rules passed by this international organization. Or the Danish government may confiscate all German assets outright in accordance with the arrangements that were suggested at the reparation conference in Paris, where it was decided that each of the former German-occupied countries should liquidate all German capital found within their borders and that these values should be used as part reparation payment.

So far the Danish government has only frozen German capital investments in Danish firms and appointed lawyers as trustees for German-financed organizations. But now it seems that it will be necessary to get to the bottom of this question.

IN DECEMBER A DELEGATION OF GREENLANDERS arrived in Denmark to discuss with government and parliament the future relationship between Denmark and Greenland. The Greenlanders want to have the Greenland administration moved to Greenland and to get a greater say in their own affairs. They desire that all Greenlanders have an opportunity to learn Danish in order to open the way for greater knowledge, a higher cultural standard, and the possibility for

a better connection with the rest of the world. These negotiations are expected to continue all winter and may make history for the Greenlanders and their country.

And, in the beginning of January, a Faroe-delegation was expected to arrive in Copenhagen following an invitation from the Danish government to discuss the future relationship between those islands and Denmark. It was expected that the Faroe Islanders will claim greater autonomy and that the islands be governed as a special unit of Greater Denmark. They want the Faroe Island parliament to have the right to pass laws with direct sanction of the King and that the Faroe flag shall be recognized as the only flag under which their ships are permitted to sail. And, finally, they want to be able to make trading arrangements with other countries.

THE POST WAR PERIOD has seen a great revival of literary production in Denmark, especially the so-called occupation literature that has flooded the market. This literary production, however, will be of great value for historians when the chapter of Denmark's fight against the oppressors and her contribution to the joint allied war effort is to be written and evaluated. The Danish theaters are filled night after night to capacity, with several American plays on the repertory. Thus, in spite of difficulties at home and abroad, the Danish people are beginning the new atomic age with a will to continue their cultural heritage in a free, new, and brave world.



## ICELAND

The gist of this is that as Iceland is interested in joining the United Nations Organization, which everybody hopes will outlaw war, the granting of bases is premature at present. The Foreign Minister has not issued a denial of this article; so it seems the whole question has been postponed indefinitely. Icelanders were very reluctant to grant bases for a long term: for their own sake and also because their yielding might cause embarrassment to the other Scandinavian countries.

Iceland, which is not yet a member of the United Nations Organization, has shown its interest in international cooperation by joining the International Labor Office and, on December 29th, also by signing the Bretton Woods agreements.

WHEN THE PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT was formed in October 1944, one of its programs was to set aside about \$46,000,000 for reconstruction after the war. The government has already negotiated buying of equipment, mostly ships, for nearly two-thirds of this amount. Fifty-five large motor fishing vessels are being built in Sweden as well as twenty steam trawlers in England. Thirty fishing schooners are under construction in Iceland. The Iceland Steamship Company has given a Copenhagen ship-building firm an order for three steamers carrying freight and passengers, and invited tenders for another three in England.

All this points to the conclusion that Iceland intends to extend its fisheries as soon as possible. It was therefore very

NO OFFICIAL COMMENT is yet available on the question of bases in Iceland, which was mentioned in the last number of the REVIEW.

An Icelandic newspaper has, however, published an article in which it quotes a reply.

bad news when, in the middle of December, Britain declared that in 1946 it would not be interested in buying any quick frozen fish from Iceland. This was a bitter disappointment, because for several years Icelanders have been building up their capacity for quick-freezing fish, which is the most advanced method of marketing fish. To find another market commercial commissions have been sent to the Central European countries, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, but owing to the destruction of the railways, the problem of transporting fish away from the harbors seems to be, at present, practically insoluble. Many hope for a market in the United States, but here again there are the difficulties of procuring refrigerating steamers for the long journey.

PRICES IN ICELAND also make competition difficult. Wages are considerably higher there than elsewhere in Europe and tend to perpetuate inflation because the increase in the cost of living index is fully compensated in all wages. In the past twelve months the cost of living has risen 14 points, to 285 percent of normal in November, despite the efforts of the government to hold it down by controlling rent and the prices of agricultural produce.

THE TRADE BALANCE of Iceland for the same twelve months was adverse.

After the war, considerable trade has already sprung up between Iceland and the other Scandinavian countries. A peculiar aspect of this trade is that, owing to the serious shortage of clothing in Denmark, several Danish firms have sent buyers to Iceland to buy textiles and other manufactured goods, of which Iceland is fairly well supplied. It gives Icelanders a great satisfaction that, apart from this buying, they have been able to send gifts of clothes worth several million kronur to the Danish Red Cross as well as to personal friends in Denmark.



WERE IT POSSIBLE for a single word to keynote the past three months in Norway, that word would be work, and yet more work; work to produce materials for reconstruction, for the winter's sustenance, and as a source of foreign exchange through exports. Aside from the rebuilding of devastated areas, the early rehabilitation of industry is Norway's most pressing concern. Figures from the Central Statistical Bureau show that of all major foreign-exchange producing industries forestry has suffered least from the war, with a 7 percent drop in capital equipment, as contrasted to whaling, which shows a 74 percent loss and shipping with a loss of 60 percent. With a shortage of wood pulp reducing November's paper output by two-thirds the Government has called for a minimum fall of 6,000,000 cubic meters of timber this season to provide materials for reconstruction and, equally important, forest products for export. Forest product industries are counted on to provide the bulk of export goods during the early transition period, with specific falling quotas being set for all timber owners.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY found a ready market for its 1945 catch. With a bristling pack totalling 340,000 cases, 245,000 were earmarked for shipment to England and America, while the remaining 90-odd thousand were reserved for home consumption. In early December, Fisheries Minister Reidar Carlsen was able to report that total fish production for the coming season, together with surplus stocks from 1945, had already been assured a market through new trade agreements. These commitments again call for increased production, this time in the field of fisheries, with an increased emphasis on new boats, equipment, and



methods. King Haakon donated \$100,000 from the "King Haakon Fund" to aid in replacing dories lost by Finnmark fishermen, while further south an increasing interest in trawler fishing is resulting in plans for the purchase of sea-going trawlers abroad. Minister of Supply, Lars Evensen, announced that fishermen are planning to purchase trawlers in Canada with a part of the \$13,000,000 2¾ percent reconstruction loan granted to Norway by that Dominion. Similar purchases may be made in the United States.

PLANS FOR AN EARLY REHABILITATION OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS were recently voiced by Mr. Gunnar Lampe of the Norwegian National Travel Association. Despite limited accommodations Norway will still be able to find room for 18,000 foreign guests from Denmark and Sweden during this winter season, according to Mr. Lampe, and a sizeable tourist traffic from England and the United States is also anticipated for the summer of 1946. The Norwegian Travel Offices in New York, London, Stockholm, and Paris are scheduled to reopen shortly with prospects of yet another office in Moscow imminent. At the present time the Travel Association's chief concern is the procuring of supplies and equipment for the country's many tourist hotels and resorts. Of the 466 hotels, 34 were completely destroyed during the war and 15 were badly damaged. As most of these resorts were taken over by the enemy early in the war, inventory depreciation ran as high as 50 percent in some cases, and a sizeable Government grant will be required to put them in shape for the 1946 season. As most of these resorts are located in areas too isolated to relieve the present housing shortage, a moderate influx of tourists is not expected to aggravate that particular problem.

IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT OCCASION when the first post-war shipment of steel left the United States for Norway in early

October. Up to that time, 117,000 tons of steel had been procured for the Norwegian shipbuilding programs in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, while stocks of structural steel were already available in Norway. Cement production is expected soon to reach 40,000 tons per month, a figure far in excess of pre-war output. In the field of transportation the chief shortage is in rolling stock rather than fuel. Fifteen hundred freight cars and 110 locomotives which the Germans left in Norway will ease the freight transport problem, while three new diesel-electric passenger trains now under construction at the Strømmen works near Oslo will be completed shortly.

FOLLOWING AN ORIENTATION TOUR which took them to markets in London, Paris, Brussels, and Amsterdam, Norwegian furmen were optimistic over the interest shown in silver fox and especially the improved Norwegian blue fox pelts. As export-import agreements are concluded it is expected that the 70-80,000 pelts now available in Norway will gradually find a market.

IN THE LABOR FIELD, organized workers are pushing for a wage increase to offset the rising cost of living, with early action expected by the Labor Court. In December an all time high in labor-management accord was reached with the signing of an agreement establishing production committees in each plant or business employing twenty men or more. These committees will deal with a host of factors pertaining to production and will include representatives from both management and labor.

Possibly the most graphic index of the industrial picture is the steadily rising employment figure, which indicates that pre-war employment will be reached by late spring of 1946. The gain is patchy, however, with certain industries showing a lag, due to marketing problems and raw



Norwegian Official Photo W 7558

*The New University of Oslo Buildings at Blindern*

material shortages. Mining, electro-metal-lurgic, earthenware and stoneware, wood pulp, cellulose, paper, clothing, food processing, and sporting goods industries will show a combined employment decrease of 13,300 since 1939. On the other hand, iron and metal, electro-chemical, oils and fats, lumber, leather and rubber, textile, and the graphic industries will show an employment increase of 14,600 over 1939. Of the above figure, increases in the iron industries alone account for 11,000. Employment in all industry is now set at 170,900, only 2,100 less than 1939. Economists are carefully watching these figures, however, for any significant changes.

PAYMENT AGREEMENTS WITH BELGIUM and the Netherlands were concluded in October with a goods exchange agreement with Czechoslovakia signed the following month. It was hoped that some phases of the Norwegian-British Trade Agreement, recently concluded, will serve as a model to replace the more cumbersome clearing agreements now in force between Norway, Denmark, and Finland.

DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT during the last quarter of 1945 saw Norway active both at sea and in the air. Eight German ships totaling 12,450 tons were recently transferred to Norway as a first payment on a \$4,230,000,000 reparation claim. Earlier Norwegian shipping claims have now been reduced to twenty-six ships, covering only those German ships which have been or are now moored in Norwegian harbors. These will, however, constitute only a small part of the tonnage needed to replace the 418 ships lost during the war. With the dissolution of Nortraship (the Government's wartime shipping authority), Norwegian tonnage was returned to a civilian status, and the ships which remain are now being returned to private ownership, with a final settlement pending between shipowners and Government. This cannot be completed, however, until some provision is made for releasing the 70,000,000 pound credit which has accrued to Norwegian owners in British insurance firms which, for the moment, is negotiable only in restricted areas. Plans to speed up the Norwegian ship-



Norwegian Official Photo W 7555

*Oslo City Hall Now Being Completed*

building program in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, together with the eventual purchase of foreign ships, are under consideration.

Following a recent visit to New York, Mr. Hans Christian Henriksen, Norwegian America Line manager, predicted a heavy passenger traffic between the United States and Norway, at the same time calling for an early reestablishment of the International Passenger Lines Conference to set up routes and price agreements for the various competing passenger firms. General anxiety over the final disposition of America's vast war-built tonnage was somewhat alleviated recently when Mr. Klaus Wiese Hansen, Norwegian shipping spokesman, noted: "Up to the present time, America's policy regarding the employment of excess tonnage has tended to strengthen the belief that we can count on close cooperation in a sound development of international shipping with the greatest possible expansion of private initiative and free competition."

NOVEMBER 16 marked the filing of Norway's application with the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board to operate a trans-Atlantic air line between Norway and the United States. To be flown by Royal Norwegian Air Transport (a state agency), the proposed route will follow the course of the great circle, linking Oslo and Stavanger in Norway with Chicago and New York. Four C-54's, modern four-engined passenger planes, have been ordered and are expected to provide a twice-weekly round trip service between Norway and the United States. Aside from domestic air routes already in operation, RNAT is operating scheduled flights between Oslo and Copenhagen, Stockholm, Croydon, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam.

AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION, yet another phase of the reconstruction program, is proceeding rapidly in all but the Finnmark districts. With a capital equipment loss of but 5 percent, agriculture is expected to make a quick come-

back, with the aid of imported breeding stock from Sweden and agricultural equipment from the United States. Sub-standard feeding during the war years, however, resulted in a decrease in the quality of natural fertilizers, and potash and phosphate imports were cut to a minimum, causing a soil productivity decline estimated at \$11,280,000. This loss is expected to be made up through a fertilization program, together with the opening of new farming districts. The war-discovered bulldozer has been so successful in clearing experimental tracts in the Aarnes district that the Norwegian Agricultural Ministry is contemplating the clearing of 1750 acres of rough, unbroken country in the vicinity of Torpa. Norway has also ordered 900 tractors of the Ford-Ferguson type, 370 of which have already arrived in Norway. It has been announced that plans for the distribution of these tractors have already been drawn up, which, according to reports, will provide for the cooperative purchase and use of a single tractor by several farmers in a given district.

IN THE BITTER COLD OF THE ARCTIC NIGHT, building continues in North Norway. Residents of these districts, reinforced by 2000 volunteers from the South, are working to provide shelter and food for the thousands of homeless. By late November, 198,000 board feet of lumber were leaving for Finnmark and Nord Troms each day, while up to that time 3,960,000 board feet had arrived from Sweden. Mills in the Narvik district are turning out doors and windows, and a first priority has been given to ready-cut log houses, 1000 of which will have arrived in Finnmark by spring. A total of 2600 former German barracks had arrived in Finnmark and Nord Troms by Christmas. Most of these "stop-gap" measures are intended, however, to be of a temporary nature, and the rebuilding of these districts from the ground up will constitute an 8-year project, at least.

RELIEF FOR THE 60,000 HUNGRY and the homeless in Finnmark and Nord Troms has been given priority over most relief projects. While thousands of adults have chosen to winter it out in Finnmark, plans to evacuate all children from these districts were drawn up several months ago, with 600 of them now enjoying the hospitality of Swedish families and 300 more spending the winter in Denmark. Facilities have been provided in Harstad for housing and caring for 8,000 children and adults, if necessary. Mr. Johan Schwingel of the Settlement Office reported in mid-October that although 1700 Nazi-seized apartments and hundreds of rooms in Oslo had been returned to their rightful owners, the need was still so acute that housing representatives were being sent to Sweden to investigate large hulled ships which might be turned into house-boats with a minimum of delay.

Aid from abroad has been of inestimable importance in relieving want in Norway this winter. Thousands of Box Units and individual gift packages from the U.S. have been swamping postal authorities since mid-summer. In early October another 30-truck Swiss relief convoy arrived in Oslo loaded with shoes, clothing, and medical supplies, a gift from the Swiss cooperative societies. About the same time, Norwegian Relief in Sweden announced that 8,750,000 kronor were available for the construction of children's hospitals in Norway.

The activities of organized relief groups in Norway deserve special recognition. Of these, American Relief for Norway has more than earned the honor it received when its chairman, Bishop J. A. Aasgaard, was awarded on New Year's Eve the highest decoration which the Norwegian Government can present: the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Olav. During his recent visit to Norway, Bishop Aasgaard noted that this group has purchased over \$4,000,000 worth of relief supplies for Norway. Its latest shipment includes 22,000 pairs of men's underwear,

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130,000 pairs of men's stockings, 2,000 pairs of women's underwear, 25,000 pairs of stockings, 8,000 children's coats, 3,000 pairs of children's shoes, and assorted goods totalling \$250,000. A project to purchase 100,000 pairs of shoes from U.S. Army stocks and \$100,000 worth of needed kitchen equipment is also under way. Mr. Ralph Hain, American Red Cross director in Norway, also announced in late December that his organization was sending 500,000 new garments valued at over \$1,000,000 to Norway. Although Norway is listed as one of the "paying nations," U.N.R.R.A. is presenting Norway with a *gift* of shoes, clothing, and children's wear to an amount of \$4,000,000. Officials of the group call this gift an expression of Allied good will.

ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, the last quarter of 1945 saw important developments in Norway's first parliamentary election in nine years. With Labor gaining a clear parliamentary majority, outstanding gains were also made by the Communist and the Christian People's Parties, which obtained ten and six new seats respectively. As but 45 of the 150 members were candidates for reelection, the turnover within that body was almost without precedent. Bolstered by this clear-cut victory, Labor chose to form a cabinet alone, and on November 1, Prime Minister Einar Gerhardsen announced his new list of ministers: the youngest cabinet in Norway's history. Five members are under 38 years of age, while the oldest is but 57, nearly all having participated actively in the Home Front struggle.

With the formal opening of Parliament on December 15, King Haakon outlined the Government's program, stressing the items which have been earmarked for early action. Among these will be measures governing rent-control, currency, the financing of reconstruction and home building, and the imposing of a tax to siphon off war profits. Provisions to level off the discrepancies between

social insurance payments and the rising cost of living will also be proposed.

In a later pronouncement, Prime Minister Gerhardsen noted among other items that in the field of state control, the proposal advising a state import monopoly on live stock feed, sugar, and medicines will be further investigated, as will the nationalization of coastal transport. The Government will also suggest that all social insurance activities be combined under a single department. Regarding the Government's stand in relation to business he noted, "The question of state monopoly is not the central concern of the Labor Government. In this matter one must look more to practicality than to principle." He continued to note that the Government's task during the coming years must be shaped according to the needs of the country, and must be viewed against a background of depreciated capital goods, a disorganized labor market, and a decreased labor potential. Before the standard of living can approach pre-war levels, production must get under way and the nation's labor must be revitalized through an extensive health program. The *Engangs Skatt*, or single tax to soak up war profits, is high on the new parliamentary agenda, and action on this important phase of the financial stabilization program is being anxiously awaited. By the year's end, three of the program's four points had been carried out: the currency exchange had been accomplished, securities had been registered, and all real property had been declared. It is expected that the tax will be levied on the basis of this registration data showing the present location of wealth in Norway. It will hit at war profiteers and will reduce the present discrepancy between purchasing power and true national wealth. In broad outline, the labor program of the Labor Party, together with the common overall platform announced by Norway's four major parties in June of 1945, will constitute the basis for domestic policy during the coming months.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN NEIGHBORS constitute a vital facet of any survey of the transition period in Norway. Following the letter of agreements, nearly all foreign occupation troops had departed Norway with the turn of the new year. On September 28, exactly eleven months to the day since they liberated Kirkenes, Russian troops said goodby to their Norwegian friends, when the last of them crossed the Norwegian-Russian Frontier. Nineteen days later Oslo bid a sad farewell to the last contingent of Yanks departing aboard the U.S. Liberty Ship *Beinville*. Many of those aboard took their leave with mixed emotions, as 70 of the 4,700 Americans were leaving their brides behind, while many others were counting the days until their Norwegian fiancées could join them. Fondly dubbed *Vaare Hjerters Okkupanter* (the occupiers of our hearts), each American soldier was presented with a diploma signed by Crown Prince Olav thanking him for his part in "restoring peace and freedom to our land." Nearly all British troops, with the exception of several contingents with special missions, had left Norway by the end of December.

The Norwegian Parliament, meeting on November 14, agreed by unanimous vote to ratify the United Nations Charter. On November 27, the official document signed by King Haakon was formally delivered to the United States Department of State. Final action approving the signing of the Bretton Woods agreement had also been concluded with the turn of the new year.

Word that former United States Secretary of State Cordell Hull had been awarded the 1945 Nobel Peace Prize was greeted with universal satisfaction in Norway. Of the many newspaper editorials commenting on the award, Johan Hambro's observations in Oslo's *Morgenbladet* were typical. Outlining the high points of Hull's fight for peace and freedom, Mr. Hambro concluded by comparing his role in the realization of the new

World Security Charter to that of Wilson in the formation of the League of Nations.

The importance of this charter to Norway was further emphasized by Foreign Minister Trygve Lie while briefing Norwegian foreign policy before Parliament. Stating that another war would threaten the very existence of the small nations, Mr. Lie emphasized that Norway must do her utmost to strengthen and develop the world security organization, at the same time increasing her own military strength as rapidly as possible both for her own security and to fill her international obligations. On the same occasion he expressed his hopes for an early Norwegian-Russian boundary settlement in Finnmark. During a later interview Minister Lie stated that Norway does not favor a Scandinavian bloc, although close cooperation with Sweden and Denmark will continue. The fate of the small nations, he noted, is dependent upon harmonious relations between the "Big Three," a factor more important today than either the Atlantic or the San Francisco Charters.

Another phase of international relations has been receiving a great deal of attention in Norway during the past three months, namely, the sending of students for a period of study in a foreign land. Latest estimates place the number of Norwegian students studying abroad at well over 800. Most of these are studying at schools and universities in Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, and England. The number of students enrolled at colleges in the United States is now well over the hundred mark, with more scheduled to arrive for the spring semesters. The generosity of American universities and individuals is doing much to relieve the shortage of facilities and teaching personnel at Norway's institutions of higher learning. Many unique methods are being used to relieve this shortage at Oslo University, among them

the "language house" plan, inspired by Dr. Frank Nelson, an American professor now teaching English at Oslo. Under this system, students studying the same foreign language live together and converse only in that particular tongue. Plans are now complete for the renting of a tourist hotel thirty miles from crowded Oslo, where one hundred students and the necessary instructors will be housed for a modest sum, completing in fifteen weeks English study assignments which would otherwise require two semesters. Regular lectures and class sessions will be carried on by University personnel with first chances at "language house" going to out-of-town students, many of whom have been forced by the Oslo housing shortage to live in a different spot each day.

The recent appeal for contributions directed to Norwegians the world over is expected to establish the "Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Fund" as a permanent institution. Headed by Minister Kaare Fostervoll, Didrik A. Seip, and C. J. Hambro, the sponsors of the fund expect interest earnings of the combined donations to finance scholarships for Norwegian students desiring to study in the United States. "Franklin D. Roosevelt," the appeal reads, "was Norway's friend, and it is natural that all good Norwegians have reason to revere his memory."

A FINAL NOTE ON THE REMOVAL OF THE DEBRIS OF WAR is naturally headed by a note on the trial and execution of Vidkun Quisling. At 11:00 A.M. on the morning of October 13, the Norwegian Supreme Court concluded its review of Quisling's case and confirmed the decision of the lower court: Quisling was to die. With the Norwegian Government meeting on October 19 to dismiss automatically Quisling's expected pardon appeal, his doom was sealed and the execution took place shortly afterward. Proceedings against traitors and N.S. members are

proceeding according to plan. On December 4, William Hagelin, Quisling "Minister of Domestic Affairs," was condemned to death. The court also ordered property confiscation to a value of \$22,000 with compensation payments of over \$200,000 plus court costs, to mop up the fortune accumulated by the "Minister" during his years in office. "Ministers" Axel Stang and Kjell Irgens (former "Stavangerfjord" captain), were condemned to life imprisonment and seven years respectively, both receiving heavy fines. Awaiting trial for 140 crimes of war are 1,300 Germans headed by the notorious General Jodl, brother of the Field Marshal Jodl now on trial at Nuremberg. Investigating teams, headed by British Lt. Col. Dobson, have been assembling evidence for the past months, and these war criminal trials are expected to reach their peak by early spring.

RECENT ACTION by a special Norwegian committee appointed to determine the fate of nine thousand "war babies" born to unwed Norwegian mothers during the German occupation, will attempt to guarantee that the sins of the parents will not be passed on to the innocent offspring. The children will not be sent to Germany, but will remain in Norway as Norwegian citizens, with every effort being made to remove the stigma of their parentage through the changing of names and a system of fostering and adoption which will protect the child against negative social pressure. All costs will be forwarded as a part of Norway's war damage claim against Germany.



## SWEDEN

"THE NATIONS WHO HAVE EMERGED VICTORIOUS FROM THE WAR," said King Gustaf in his speech from the throne at the formal opening of the 1946 Riksdag on January 10, "have decided to renew the endeavors made after the first world war to lay the foundation to a lasting peace by forming a general league. Sweden's desire is, according to its powers, to contribute toward rendering the peace secure. It is my intention to submit for the consideration of the Riksdag the question of Sweden's adherence to this league. In accordance with previously formulated directives, Sweden is bearing its share in the reconstruction of Europe. With joy I greeted the liberation of Denmark and Norway. It has been possible to resume cooperation with our Northern neighbors in many ways. The cancelling of certain measures necessitated by the war is proceeding with all possible speed. At the same time, the preparations for solving our postwar problems are continuing. These include in the first place the work of social reform."

All taxes and tax increases decided upon during the war years remain unchanged in the budget for 1946-47 which was laid before the Riksdag. Thus even the special so-called defense tax will still be levied. The budget balances at 3,258,000,000 kronor, or about \$814 million, a minor increase compared with last year. Of the total sum, 899 million kronor goes to national defense, 680 million to the department of social warfare, and 222 million to the communications department. Appropriations to the department of civilian supply were cut from 186 to 26 million kronor. The Minister of Supply, Axel Gjöres, said that he expected that by July 1 only very few articles and products will still be rationed.

A NATIONAL COLLECTION of clothing and shoes for needy people in war-ravaged countries, started in January 1945 by the Swedish women's voluntary services, yielded a total of 1,035 tons. Of this, 300 tons were sent to Finland, 115 to Norway, 50 to Denmark, 200 to Poland, and 40 to Czechoslovakia.

THE FIRST PLANE of the American Overseas Airlines landed January 7 at Bromma airport, at Stockholm, carrying a delegation of sixteen persons representing the Civil Aeronautics Board and other United States authorities. All preliminaries were concluded at that time, and it was hoped that regular air traffic would immediately be inaugurated. For the time being the company will fly one round trip a week, and the price was expected to be \$375 each way. American Overseas Airlines' new head in Stockholm is Roger G. Flynn. James Miller, who formerly held this post, has been transferred to Oslo. Mr. Flynn used to serve at LaGuardia Field in New York.

Postal service between Sweden and the United States will soon be improved to the extent that mail will be carried both ways by the air lines of the two countries, according to Gunnar Lager of the Swedish Post Office Department. So far, the air lines are not operating entirely on a commercial basis; Swedish planes do not carry mail from the United States, and only American planes carry mail to Sweden.

PROFESSOR THE SVEDBERG, famous Swedish chemist of Upsala University, is making an official visit to the United States for the purpose of studying the American manufacture of synthetic rubber. He will also gather data in connection with a cyclotron which is now being built at Upsala. Professor Svedberg was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1926. He has received doctor's degrees from Harvard, Wisconsin, and Delaware.



IN FEBRUARY AN EXHIBITION of about 2,000 American books—fiction as well as text books—was scheduled for Stockholm under the auspices of the United States International Book Association, according to Eugene Reynal, head of the New York publishing firm of Reynal & Hitchcock, who recently visited Stockholm. "We plan to make this book center a permanent one," Mr. Reynal said in a newspaper interview, "as soon as we find suitable quarters. Similar centers will be opened in other European capitals as well." Head of the Northern European division of USIBA will be Sidney Sulkin and his Scandinavian main office will be in Stockholm. His purpose will also be to invite Swedish publishers to send a representative collection of books to New York for an exhibition which USIBA plans to open in the near future. "We aim to arrange for a cultural exchange," Mr. Reynal explained, "and next to foreign travel, the easiest and speediest way to achieve this goal is via literature."

A LANDSCAPE PAINTING by Prince Eugen, Sweden's royal artist and brother of King Gustaf, was presented in Moscow on New Year's Day to Mme. Alexandra Kollontay, former Soviet envoy in Stockholm, by Sweden's Minister, Staffan Söderblom, as a memento from her Swedish friends.

SWEDEN UNDOUBTEDLY will accept the invitation to attend the world economic conference which will be held in the United States in 1946, said Gunnar Myrdal, Minister of Commerce and well known economist, at a meeting in Stockholm on December 14 of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. He stressed the importance of Sweden's interest in a free trade policy being unequivocally declared and of Sweden showing in practice that its foreign commerce follows the principle of free trade.

Sweden's tariff barriers are lower than those of other countries, the Minister

pointed out, but he added that in the interest of economic disarmament it should offer to abolish or at least lower certain tariffs. At present, Sweden is concluding bilateral trade treaties, and these should be looked upon as steps toward multilateral trade. Professor Myrdal said he hoped that the great financial settlements being drafted in Washington would help to overcome the scarcity of foreign currency which today is the greatest obstacle to multilateral world trade. This, in turn, might increase international production and distribution. He warned, however, against autarchic tendencies, stressing the necessity of common international measures.

ABOUT 200,000 CHRISTMAS PACKAGES were sent from Sweden to foreign countries. The majority, or 70,000, went to Finland and some 20,000 to Norway and Denmark. Packages were also sent to many other countries, such as Abyssinia. Parcels weighed up to 22 pounds and usually contained coffee, tea, or cocoa. The Swedish Government contributed 10,000 children's shoes to France.

THE HOWARD N. POTTS GOLD MEDAL of the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia in December was awarded B. Edlén, Professor of Physics in the University of Lund, for his research in the extreme ultra-violet rays of the atomic spectra. His studies have helped to solve the problem of the corona. Professor Edlén has for some time been living in the United States.

COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE, who met General George S. Patton, Jr., in Germany and was his host at a Thanksgiving dinner in Stockholm given by the Swedish-American Society, said that the Commander of the Third U.S. Army had made a strong and lasting impression on him. "He was outspoken, often a bit brusque, but his eyes sparkled with good humor," said Count Bernadotte. "He was probably

very demanding of his men, but he asked as much of himself. On the day after his death he was supposed to have returned to America, and when I saw him in Stockholm he was as happy as a child at the prospect of spending Christmas with his family. We all know he was a great army leader; he was also a great man."

"WE WILL NEVER FORGET the year that has just gone," said Archbishop Erling Eidem of Upsala in his annual Christmas message. "With exuberant joy we watched the liberation of our Danish and Norwegian brethren. The year also brought us the eagerly awaited message that the arms have at last been laid down after a devastating world war. It is obvious to us all that a new world cannot be founded on might and violence. New men and women are needed, and a new spirit, marked by justice, tolerance, and good will. To alleviate the world's misery, material as well as spiritual, it is necessary for mankind to become like the good Samaritan."

A MEETING at which representatives of the Protestant and Catholic churches in Sweden discussed the possibilities for a closer cooperation was held in Upsala in December. Sponsored by the university students' discussion society, the meeting was believed to be the first of its kind ever arranged. The Catholic representative was the Father Theuves of Stockholm, while the author Harry Blomberg represented the Protestant group.

A TRADE TREATY was signed in December between Sweden and Norway for 1946 providing for an exchange of goods valued at 200,000,000 kronor, or some \$50,000,000. According to this agreement, Sweden is to export iron and steel, ball bearings, machinery, chemical products, peas, syrup, and molasses, while Norway will deliver nitrate, copper, zinc, aluminum, and hides.

**DR. HANS DAVIDE**, head of Stockholm's Central Bacteriological Laboratory, has discovered a substance which acts fatally on tuberculosis bacilli. Successful experiments have been made on animals, and Dr. Davide soon expects to try out his remedy also on human beings. The Swedish National Anti-Tuberculosis Association has awarded Dr. Davide and two other Swedish authorities on tuberculosis grants to continue their researches.

**HOT RUNNING WATER** was permitted in apartment houses in Sweden from December 17 to January 7.

FOREIGNERS STILL IN SWEDEN at the end of last year totaled 119,000. This includes 25,000 Finnish children, and 6,000 Norwegian, 2,000 Dutch, 362 Belgian, and 125 French children.

THE SWEDISH NAVY has disarmed a total of 4,220 mines. Of these, 3,520 were found on the west coast, while other parts of Sweden's shore yielded 700 more.

SWEDEN'S LARGEST and latest destroyer, the "Öland," named after the island in the Baltic Sea, was launched on December 15 at the Kockum yard in Malmö. It measures 1,800 tons and has a length of about 320 feet.

THE TRADITIONAL NOBEL FESTIVAL, at which all prizes except that for Peace are awarded, took place in Stockholm on December 10 for the first time in seven years. The event, staged as usual in Stockholm's Concert Hall, was marked by prewar pomp. King Gustaf, now in his 87th year, personally presented the Nobel medals, the handsomely bound and richly illuminated addresses, and the money awards of about \$29,000 each. The winners who had been able to come to Stockholm for the ceremony were Sir

Alexander Fleming, Sir Howard W. Florey, and Dr. Ernst B. Chain, who received the 1945 Prize in Medicine and Physiology for their joint discovery of penicillin; Professor A. I. Virtanen, of Helsinki, who won the 1945 Chemistry Prize, and the Chilean poetess, Señorita Gabriela Mistral, winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Literature. Prof. Wolfgang Pauli, of Princeton University, who received the 1945 Prize in Physics, could not get to Stockholm in time, and his award was received by Christian M. Ravndal, United States Chargé d'Affaires. The winner of the 1944 Chemistry Prize, Prof. Otto Hahn, is stateless and could therefore not be represented by any diplomatic agent.

HARALD EDELSTAM, an attaché at the Swedish Consulate General in Oslo, in December received from King Haakon VII the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav for the help he rendered Norway in the war. All during the occupation, Mr. Edelstam was in close contact with the home front, and personally carried out many dangerous missions, especially in connection with the deportation of the Oslo University students. The Nazis finally became suspicious of his activities, and he was forced to leave the country. Among his Norwegian comrades he was known as "The Black Pimpernell."

THE SO-CALLED "LIBERTY GIFT" to Norway—the drive to collect money for which began on VE day—reached a total of 8.5 million kronor or some \$2,000,000. It was announced in November that the money will be used to set up two completely equipped children's clinics in Oslo and Bergen and to provide departments for children's care at the municipal hospitals in Bodö and Tromsö. This gift is entirely separate from the Swedish Aid to Norway, money gifts to which alone exceeded 70 million kronor.

## SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICA

### Constantin Brun

Chamberlain Constantin Brun, who was Denmark's Minister to the United States from 1895 until 1930, when he resigned, died in Washington, D.C., on December 23, 1945, at the age of 85. Minister Brun was born in Copenhagen and graduated from Herlufsholm School, and in 1883 was created an Honorary Doctor of the University of Copenhagen. He had been a career man in the foreign service before he came to the United States and had served at the legations in Berlin and Paris. One event in his Washington term was the signing of the treaty which completed the purchase of the Danish West Indies by the United States in 1911. In 1924 he established the Constantin Brun Award for the purpose of sending aged Danish-Americans on visits to their old homeland.

### Halvor Jacobsen

Mr. Halvor Jacobsen, 80 years old, died in his home in New York January 6. One of the most prominent and popular men among Danish-Americans, he was best known as Director of the old Scandinavian-American Line, first on the Pacific coast and from 1913 as the General Director of the Line for the United States with office in New York. Halvor Jacobsen was born in Copenhagen, and as a boy of nine he left Denmark with his parents, who emigrated to New Zealand. From there the family came to Fresno, California, where they started in the vinery business. At 27 Halvor Jacobsen was elected to the State Assembly, where he served for two years. For a number of years he operated an insurance business in San Francisco. He was the moving spirit in the organization for the erection of a Denmark building at the World's Fair in San Francisco. He was a leading and

untiring member in many Danish-American organizations, and he mastered the Danish language with a proud perfection, in spite of his few years of schooling in his native country. He was a Commander of the Danish Order of Dannebrog. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Ellen Aubrey of New York.

#### Danish Information Bureau

An official Bureau of Information has been opened at 15 Moore Street, New York City, by the Danish Government. Mr. C. H. W. Hasselriis, who was the Director of "Friends of Denmark" during the war, will be the Chief of the new Bureau.

#### New Saga Age

"A New Saga Time" was the title of a novel paper read at the convention of The Modern Language Association of America in Chicago by Professor Aasta Stene of Oslo University. In Norway during the German Occupation "hush-hush" tales were related by word of mouth just as in the olden times before they were recorded in writing. Professor Stene is occupying the chair of Professor Einar Haugen at the University of Wisconsin while he is on leave as cultural attache in Oslo. She has given several talks to private groups on subjects such as "The Teaching and Study of English in Norway during the Occupation," and introduced for the current semester at Wisconsin University a course entitled "Intellectual and Political Trends in a German Occupied Country: Norway 1940-1945."

#### An Expression of Gratitude

The Board of Nordmanns-Forbundet, Oslo, has made a gift to "The Norwegian America" as a token of appreciation for the help extended to the Norwegian people during the war and after the liberation. "It is impossible to send a gift comparable to the contributions received from the emigrated Norway. But as a small

sign of our gratefulness Nordmanns-Forbundet has decided to present to university and public libraries in 'Norwegian' states and provinces in the United States and Canada a collection of books which may give a picture of our country during the war." Sixteen libraries will receive these books.

#### Swedes at the Metropolitan

The post-war season at the Metropolitan Opera has had a strong Swedish coloring. TORSTEN RALF made his American debut in Lohengrin on the very opening night of the season and was enthusiastically received. The performance was honored by the presence of Mrs. Truman and her daughter, who called on the Swedish singer during intermission to express their admiration. Rigoletto on November 29th marked the return to the Metropolitan of JUSSI BJÖRLING, an old friend of American opera-lovers. Björling has also been on extensive tours during the winter, and radio-audiences have had the opportunity to listen to him several times on the Ford Hour. JOEL BERGLUND's first role at the Metropolitan Opera was Hans Sachs in Meistersinger, on January 9th, and he too was given a very warm welcome. Berglund has also given concerts in Indianapolis and is currently singing in records for Columbia.

#### All American Swedes

One of the greatest demonstrations of American loyalties by citizens of Swedish descent took place at "The Palace of New York," the Waldorf-Astoria, on December 17. More than three thousand Swedish-Americans, each representing a church, a society, a lodge, a hospital, a library, an orphanage home, an orchestra, a choral club, or other institution shook hands with the new Minister and the new Consul General of Sweden. The ceremony was arranged under the indefatigable leadership of Mr. George P. Johansen.

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# THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

*For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples,  
by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information*

ESTABLISHED BY NIELS POULSON, IN 1911

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## Trustees' Meeting February 2

The thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Trustees of The American-Scandinavian Foundation, coming from several states, together with guests from the Scandinavian Diplomatic Corps and officials of the U.S. Government, was held, according to tradition, in the Mahogany Room of the Harvard Club of New York City on the first Saturday of February.

The Executive Committee reported vigorous renewal of the interchange of students, following the cessation of hostilities. 112 Fellows from the Scandinavian countries have already been appointed and placed in American institutions from coast to coast and more come on every plane and ship. Students from Iceland, however, have now turned to Denmark and Sweden. Hundreds of American universities, technical schools, colleges, and boarding schools have offered scholarship privileges to Fellows of the Foundation.

Two American Fellows have been sent to Scandinavia and posters announcing our Fellowships for study in Scandinavia 1946-1947 have been sent to some two thousand American institutions of learning. Applications close March 15.

More than \$200,000 in cash contribu-

tions for stipends for Fellows, most of them already reported in the REVIEW, have been received by the Foundation and its affiliated offices abroad. The American Society of Denmark has assembled some \$80,000 in kroner promised for American Fellowships in the next eighteen months. Norway America Fund has instituted two new funds, The Alumni Fund and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Fund. More than 100,000 kroner were given to the Roosevelt Fund within a few days of the announcement of subscription.

The death of Hanna Astrup Larsen, distinguished Editor of the Foundation, is announced in the leading article in this REVIEW. By resignation, the Foundation lost the faithful services of its beloved Director of Students, John B. C. Watkins, who came to the Foundation December 1, 1934, and is now Associate Professor of English in The University of Manitoba. Mrs. Rita Coté Alden, formerly of the War Production Board, is presently supervising the placing of Students, while Mrs. May Spiro, formerly of the Office of War Information, is acting Director of Library Information. The William Henry Schofield Library is being

greatly increased by donations of books from the publishers of Denmark and a further gift of one thousand dollars by Mr. Harold S. Deming, Trustee of the Foundation.

The Publications Council, Professor Robert Herndon Fife, Chairman, reported the publication of two books in addition to the *REVIEW*, in 1945, and the preparation of two volumes for 1946. Sustaining Associates for the first time passed five hundred in 1945 and *REVIEW* subscribers increased by some five hundred.

Copies of the Annual Report, the revised Charter, Constitution, and By-Laws, Publications Circular, and other pamphlets will be mailed free on written application. The audit is always open to inspection at the Foundation's New York office.

#### The Alvin Johnson Dinner

On January tenth more than four hundred persons assembled in the Grand Ball Room of the Waldorf-Astoria to honor Dr. Alvin Johnson, retiring President of the New School for Social Research of New York. Among the speakers were Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the Minister of Denmark, Thomas W. Lamont (Chairman of J. P. Morgan and Company), Julian Clarence Levi, and Dean Clara Woolie Mayer of the New School. The Metropolitan Opera was represented by Torsten Ralf. Mr. Levi presented a magnificent scroll of achievement in many colors, his own workmanship, to Dr. Johnson as a tribute from the Foundation. The New School presently created four fellowships for Scandinavian students. The new President, Dr. Bryn J. Hovde, inaugurated December 27th, is a former Fellow of the Foundation. Dr. Johnson is of Danish, Dr. Hovde of Norwegian ancestry.

#### The Creese Inaugural

With a rare combination of solemnity and gaiety Dr. James Creese, Vice-Presi-

dent and former Secretary of the Foundation, was inaugurated President of Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, December tenth, 1945. The academic procession of delegates from many universities, colleges, and institutes of technology marched in order of the date of founding the institutions represented. The oldest, the University of Uppsala in Sweden, led the procession, accompanied by the venerable and distinguished delegate of Harvard University. Nobel prizeman Harold Clayton Urey, Vice-President of the Foundation, made the chief address on the Atomic Age. At the dinner following the inaugural the principal speaker was the President of Dr. Creese's alma mater, Princeton University.

#### Murdock Flies to Scandinavia

On January twenty-second Professor Kenneth Ballard Murdock of Harvard University, accompanied by Mrs. Murdock as his Secretary, flew to the Northern countries as Lecturer of The American-Scandinavian Foundation. He will give some thirty lectures on American ideas as interpreted by our literature from 1620 to 1946. He follows the tradition of Harvard visitors to the Scandinavian countries distinguished by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and William Henry Schofield.

#### Former Fellows

Dr. Paul Bentzen, Fellow from Denmark 1938-1939 for the study of surgery, is presently a Captain in the United States Army, Medical Corps, attached to the Copenhagen Leave Center as Medical Officer for the U.S. Army leave personnel.

Dr. Beverly L. Clarke, American Fellow to Sweden 1921-1922 and, at that time, also a student of Physics and Mathematics at the University of Copenhagen, on November 1st, 1945, joined the staff of Merck and Company, Inc., Rahway, New Jersey, as Director of Chemical Control.

Miss Borghild Margarethe Dahl, the first American woman to be appointed Fellow to Norway 1923-1924, is extremely active writing new books. Her newest, *I Wanted to See*, published in 1944, is going into its fourth edition and is now to be published by the Museum Press of London. Her *Marit* was published last year in the Norwegian as a serial by *Decorah Posten* in Decorah, Iowa. This is the story of the home front in Norway during the invasion by the Nazis. She is now completing a novel *Granstock*, the story of Norwegian-American Pioneers.

Professor Bengt Edlen, Fellow from Sweden 1937-1938, who received the Arrhenius medal last Spring and the Royal Astronomical Society's gold medal, is now to receive the Howard N. Potts gold medal from the Franklin Institute.

Mr. Björn Halldórsson, Fellow from Iceland 1944-1945, is presently studying Economics at Harvard University.

Docent Gunnar Heckscher, Fellow from Sweden 1937-1938, is now Head of Socialinstitutet in Stockholm.

Dr. Howard Vincent Hong, American Fellow to Denmark 1938-1939, and Associate Professor of Philosophy and English at St. Olaf College, is presently in Europe working with displaced persons under the International World's Committee of the Y.M.C.A. where he will remain for approximately one year.

Professor Otto Lous Mohr, Fellow from Norway 1918-1919, has recently been appointed Rektor of the University of Oslo, succeeding Dr. Diderik Arup Seip. While in the United States, Professor Mohr carried on extensive research work at Columbia University in Genetics and was Lecturer in many universities.

Dr. Herluf V. Olsen, American Fellow to Denmark 1922-1923, for the study of the Danish Cooperative Movement and Folk High Schools, is presently Dean of the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

#### Present Fellows

The second Fellow from America to be appointed for study in Scandinavia since the close of the war is Mr. Leonard S. Silk of Duke University who is presently studying the distribution of income from 1925-1945 in Sweden.

Three Swedish physicists, Messrs. Gunnar Lindström, Björn Åström, and Hugo Atterling, who were appointed by the Swedish Academy of Science under the direction of Professor Manne Siegbahn to conduct research work in various cyclotron laboratories in this country, have returned to Sweden. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Illinois, the University of California, General Electric Plant in Schenectady, New York, are a few of the laboratories which were visited by them.

Dr. Erik Bandier, graduate of the University of Copenhagen, and Doctor of Medical Science, is presently studying surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Mr. Hans Bendixen of Denmark is pursuing his studies of the tobacco industry in this country. He will visit various factories and plantations.

Mr. Arne Berglund, of Sweden, is presently taking courses in Industrial Economy at Yale University, where he will remain for a short time before visiting various printing establishments in this country. Mr. Berglund is the son of the Director of the Fylgia Printing Company in Sweden.

Dr. Gunnar C. W. Björck, Doctor of Medicine from the Medical Clinic of Sabbatsberg and Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Medical Corps Reserve, arrived a short time ago with Mrs. Björck. He is now with the Massachusetts General Hospital conducting extensive research on the illness of the heart. Eventually, Dr. Björck expects to be with the new heart clinic that is being built at Södersjukhuset.

Mrs. Tora Nordström-Bonnier arrived in California with her three sons, Ulf

Ramm-Erickson, also a Fellow of the Foundation, and Simon and Karl-Adam. Mrs. Bonnier and Mr. Erickson hope to study at Stanford University in California. Mrs. Bonnier has been appointed by Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen to conduct research work in this country on the household appliance industry. Simon and Karl-Adam are attending the Montezuma Mount Ranch School in Los Gatos, California.

Mr. Gunnar Grahn of Handelshögskolan in Sweden is taking advanced courses in Business Administration and Management at Columbia University.

Dr. Richardt Harry Hammen, of Denmark, after having spent several weeks in New York City visiting the various hospitals, is now with Boston University pursuing studies on the impaired fertility in the male.

Miss Birgit Henriques is taking advanced courses in Home Economics at the University of California after having completed several courses in Domestic Economy at the Professional School of Domestic Economy at Uppsala.

Dr. Paul Mogens Jersild, who obtained the Degree of Medical Science from the University of Copenhagen, is now studying at the Boston City Hospital.

Mr. Wilhelm Faye Klaveness of Norway is studying Electric Welding and Shipbuilding with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Sparrow Point, Baltimore.

Mr. Torsten Lilja, of Stockholm's Handelshögskolan, is studying Plastics with the Plastics Institute in New York City.

Dr. Erik A. Severin of the Invalid Institute in Stockholm is studying physical therapeutics and plastic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Mr. Erik Arne Sjöberg, appointed by the Swedish Government to investigate methods of cost finding in railway freight service, will conduct this research at Columbia University and the University of Chicago. He intends to review the In-

terstate Commerce Laws in Washington, D.C.

Norway continues to send the Foundation many excellent students. Some recent arrivals are Mr. Jacob E. Dybwad, Mr. Knut Kristian Dahle, Miss Mette Graff, Mr. Karl C. W. Bryn, Miss Grethe Hoff, and Mr. Tage Munthe-Kaas.

Dr. Hans Wandall, who obtained his Medical Science Degree from the University of Copenhagen and has been Doctor with Rigshospital in Copenhagen, received a grant of \$3,000 from the Ella Lyman Cabot Trust, and is presently studying thoracic surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Helge Tyren, who is assisting Professor The Svedberg of Upsala in this country with research in Physical Chemistry, is in the process of touring about the United States and Canada visiting various laboratories.

Doctor Inger M. Boberg, Folklorist from Denmark, is collaborating with Professor Stith Thompson at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, Indiana.

#### Augustana Chapter

On November 7th, in the lecture room of the college library, the Augustana Chapter exhibited a motion picture entitled *En Saga* which was photographed in Lapland and described the problems brought to Aslak Laagje and his family when they rescued a sleeping baby from the wolves. The film recorded the life and ways of unusual people, the big herds of reindeer, battles with wolves, and happenings in the open country and in the village. Hosts for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Sigurd Anerson, Dr. and Mrs. Conrad Bergendoff, and Miss Florence Bradford.

#### Cambridge Chapter

A very festive occasion was the Christmas meeting of the American-Scandinavian Forum of Cambridge. The Forum invited to its party the twenty-one Norwegian students who have recently en-



rolled in Tufts Dental School, and enlisted them in a small project of New Year's giving. Each student was given a packed export package containing a pound of coffee, a half pound of tea, a half pound of hard candy, and a cake of soap. The necessary stamps, labels, and export permits were also provided. Each student was asked to send a package to any person in Norway—a Resistance worker, an old teacher—someone in need, at his own discretion.

Earlier, in November, the Forum held a reception for these students at which Dr. Fin Brudevold of Tufts Dental School gave a short talk on the kind of experiences they and others like them had at home in Norway during the war years. The major portion of these students were active workers in the Resistance. A spirit of friendliness pervaded the evening.

#### Chicago Chapter

On the 7th of January the Chapter gave a tea and photographic exhibition: "Sweden—A Workshop of Democracy" by the eminent Swedish photographer K. W. Gullers. This exhibition is presently touring various parts of the country, namely, Philadelphia, Detroit, Minneapolis, and the West Coast. The Chapter had as guests-of-honor thirteen new students from Norway who are studying at Northwestern University. Mrs. Helen Englund reported on her recent visit to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland.

#### Dana College Chapter

The year's activities of the Dana College Chapter opened on October 20th with the election of officers and the showing of a film on Sweden. The film was designed to better acquaint Americans with the home life and industry of the Swedish people and their relations during the war. Elected as officers of the Chapter were: President, Dr. J. P. Niel-

son; Vice President, Mr. H. J. Hansen; Treasurer, Mr. Franklin Highby; and Secretary, Miss Joan Andersen.

#### New York Chapter

On December 14th, the New York Chapter held a "Victory Christmas Party" at Sherry's. Mr. Wagner led the singing of carols, Torsten Ralf, Swedish tenor from the Metropolitan Opera, sang several songs. Miss Martha Lindon of Hollywood read the "Little Match Girl," by Hans Christian Andersen. The "Three Crowns" Restaurant furnished *glögg* for the festive occasion. Several returned service men were present, who danced with Foundation Fellows.

On January 18th the Social Committee arranged a Norwegian evening. Mrs. Gladys Petch gave a spirited description of her recent trip to Norway. Mr. Knut Olsen showed his recent vivid color films of Norway, with humor and conviction. Signe Amundsen, Norwegian opera singer, won repeated encores. Mr. Ray Morris, President of the Chapter, who presided, recently returned from a trip to Scandinavia.

On February 15th the Chapter gave a gala Valentine's Party at Sherry's for the Fellows of the Foundation. Square dancing was a feature of the evening.

#### Seattle Chapter

The reorganization of the Seattle Chapter is well under way. On Thursday evening, January 10th, about twenty members or associates of the American-Scandinavian Foundation of the Seattle Metropolitan area met in Norway Hall to consider the invitation of the President of the American-Scandinavian Foundation to reorganize the local Chapter. About two-thirds of the Seattle associates were present and a number of letters were received.



**Twelve Stories, by Steen Steensen Blicher.** Translated from the Danish by Hanna Astrup Larsen, with an introduction by Sigrid Undset. *Princeton University Press for The American-Scandinavian Foundation.* 1945. Price \$3.00.

It is sad to speak of Hanna Astrup Larsen in the past tense, with her name fresh on a title page. Her translation of Blicher, coming with its striking and massive introduction by Sigrid Undset, is as good work as she ever did, and a touching final proof of her unsparing consecration to the most precious of Northern values. Miss Larsen used her life to a purpose. As an editor and writer, resolute in critical integrity, she was aware of the impregnable place that the North has secured for itself by its culture, but only devotion can carry Scandinavian culture into world society, and the debt that is owed to Miss Larsen is immeasurable. That her sense of values, her inner flame and her steady loyalty should have led her to communicate this culture in a Danish expression of it is, at the end, both characteristic and admirable. Blicher is worth it, but he needed her.

Blicher had genius; how keen and bright it is, across an ocean and a century, this book reveals. National piety will revive his reputation when the centenary demands it in a couple of years—he lived from 1782 to 1848, but his edge does not require the soft and deceptive surface of a centenary. It calls for the attention to which this labor of Miss Larsen's entitles it.

Blicher happened to be a Jutland clergyman. He was no more fitted to be a clergyman than a bank president. The fact of his unsuitability, as Sigrid Undset shows in her incorrigibly honest introduction, did not rescue him from the parsonage, any more than such unsuitability rescues writers today from the newspaper office. Steen Steensen Blicher was as much caught in a class system as Jörgen in the fatal quicksand in his story "Marie," and if he were not to sink back "into the ranks of the common people" he had to wear the cloth, to serve two parishes, have

a swarm of children, and a round of duties. He was so tied down that it was wholly natural for him to house his old blind father, and only once did he break so much away as to make a short trip to Sweden.

But literature is a yield from pain as well as pleasure. So warmly did Blicher love life, so eagerly did he rush to enjoy it, and so sensitively and tenderly did he respond, that the very fact of his maladjustment, his "frustration," together with his love of hunting and companionship and rum, extracted the amber that few men exude under perfect conditions in garden suburbs.

When a country parson begins to write, he is usually a slavish imitator. Blicher was slavish in one respect; he wanted every picture to tell a heartbreaking story, and he sought for bold, vivid, and romantic contrasts. His native heath was as good a place for gypsies, murders, abductions, and reprobates as ever was seen, and the lovclorn loom against its skies. But Blicher, whatever his obligation to be violent in action and passion, instinctively redeemed himself by inherent fidelity to his comic spirit and his recognition of tragic reality.

Hence a glowing, sparkling, tangible world with warm-blooded people in it. This is a world in which people's hearts break, but they are like people one has known. Blicher's men and women are driven by love and lust, but he never forgets the pawnbroker who holds their pledges, and when time demands the forfeit no one could be more aware of the inexorable transaction than Blicher. He regards his scene as a familiar one, and he suffers in it but with an utter lack of sentimentality. This makes him as concrete as Crabbe, to whom Edmund Gosse compares him. But Blicher's colors have sun in them and yet a fluidity. The voluptuous, the headstrong, the unfaithful—he gives them full sway, but, "Lord, how inscrutable are Thy ways!", he at once brightens the contrast, sharpens the surprise and deepens the tragedy.

But Blicher has a modern touch. Never flippant, he still moves lightly and quickly. Out of the squalor that Sigrid Undset so rightly recalls, and a wisdom that ran ahead of conservatism, this Dane composed a succession of little masterpieces with an almost Russian simplicity. So he disarmingly became a household word, and stirred many an eager imagination like Sigrid Undset's, giving poetry a local accent and knit stockings.

FRANCIS HACKETT

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**Fairy Tales From Hans Christian Andersen. Illustrated by Tasha Tudor. Oxford. 1945. Price \$3.50.**

With the exception of "Alice in Wonderland," there is probably no other book for children that has tempted more artists to adorn it with illustrations than the fairy tales of H. C. Andersen. Now Oxford University Press offers a new version, with drawings in black-and-white, as well as full-color paintings, by Tasha Tudor. On the whole, the artist has succeeded well, his watercolors being especially felicitous. He has also managed to give the background settings for his pictures a real Scandinavian flavor.

Just as nobody has quite ever equalled John Tenniel's wonderful illustrations to "Alice," which are so *just right*, nobody, to my mind, has been able to better the superb woodcuts of Lorentz Fröhlich in the first edition of Andersen's works (of which, incidentally, I am a mighty proud possessor, having received them from my grandmother, who actually met Andersen in her childhood). But the current artist has obviously steeped himself in the Andersen lore, his imagination is fresh and fertile, and his colors are appropriately gay.

HOLGER LUNDBERGH

**Wind Island. By Hedvig Collin. The Viking Press. 1945. Price \$2.00.**

The author, a well-known artist and illustrator, came to this country as Fellow of the Foundation in 1939 and is previously known to American readers through her book *Two Viking Boys*, published in 1941. *Wind Island* is a charming children's story about life on the tiny island of Fanö off the coast of Denmark, where the author used to make her home in the summer. The three children Kristian, Peter, and their little sister Hanne are making an amber necklace for their mother's birthday, but they lack one piece, big enough to make a heart with which to crown their gift. Old Hanna, the doll-maker of Fanö, tells them that "Wind Island" is really a sandbank which has drifted into the tops of an old, sunken forest and that this is why, after a three days' storm, the oak roots come up on the beach and with them the amber.

*Wind Island* is just what the title indicates—it is like a breath of fresh sea air, and the many, lovely illustrations by the author give it additional charm.

MAY SPIRO

### *To Friends of*

MISS HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN

Our former Staff Member

Dr. John B. C. Watkins has written a charming article about Miss Larsen in the January issue of the "American-Swedish Monthly." If you would care to have it, we shall be glad to send the issue to you upon receipt of 20 cents in stamps.

*The* FOUNDATION

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If you have a spare copy which you would be willing to part with, will you kindly send them to us?

- 1940: The Autumn number
- 1943: The Spring number
- The Summer number
- The Winter number

We shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly cooperate with us.

The American-Scandinavian  
Foundation

116 East 64th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

STEEN STEENSEN BLICHER

*TWELVE STORIES*

Translated by HANNA ASTRUP LARSEN

*With an Essay on Blicher by Sigrid Undset*

Steen Steensen Blicher (1782-1848) was one of the greatest writers Denmark has produced. A poor country parson, his love for his native Jutland dominated his life, and he put all his intimate knowledge of the country and its folkways into his short stories. A dozen of the finest examples of his genius have been translated by Hanna Astrup Larsen for this volume.

Blicher was a realist in a romantic age, an artist with a keen ear and a kindly understanding of all sorts and conditions of men. He captured for once and all in his immortal stories the desolate moors of the Jutland peninsula, the squirearchy of the small villages, the harsh existence of its gipsies and fisherfolk.

Sigrid Undset, the distinguished Norwegian novelist, has contributed a delightful essay on Blicher to this volume. Madame Undset is a warm admirer of his art. She has written a sympathetic account of his tragic life and triumphant achievements that permit English-speaking readers to understand why some of Blicher's stories and poems "will be treasured by his people as long as the Danes speak and write Danish."

**Bound, \$3.00**

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